花とゆめCOMICS

夏目友人帳

緑川ゆき 14

花とゆめ COMICS

ISBN978-4-592-19364-7

9784592193647

C9979 ¥400E

定価 本体400円+税

1929979004002

雑誌43793－77

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白泉社

花とゆめCOMICS

▶収録作品◀

おつかいの途中で小物妖怪に捕まった夏目。咽をやられ声が出せなくなったところに、祖母・レイコを知る別の妖怪が出現！　窮地から救われる。しかし、今度はその妖怪の棲家へと連れ去られて…!?　中級妖怪コンビが主役の特別編も収録。あやかし契約奇談第14巻!!

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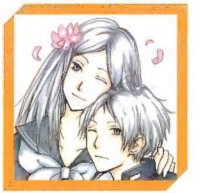

作品かいせつ

おつかいの途中で二匹の小物妖怪に捕まった夏目。咽をやられ声が出せなくなったところに、祖母・レイコを知る別の妖怪が出現！　窮地から救われる。ところが、今度はその妖怪の棲家へと連れ去られて…!?　中級妖怪コンビが主役の特別編も収録。あやかし契約奇談第14巻!!

●緑川ゆきの本

―花とゆめコミックス―

アッイヒビ／蛍火の杜へ

緋色の椅子　全5巻

夏目友人帳　①～⑭

―花とゆめコミックス　スペシャル―

夏目友人帳　公式ファンブック　―夏目と友人たち―

ニャンコ先生友人帳　夏目友人帳　公式ニャンブック

愛蔵版　蛍火の杜へ

―白泉社文庫―

あかく咲く声　全2巻／緋色の椅子　全5巻

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第14巻

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この作品はフィクションです。実在の人物・団体・事件などにはいっさい関係ありません。

夏目友人帳

なつめゆうじんちょう

第五十五話（だいごじゅうごわ）

We got him

We got Natsume Of the Book of Friends

EVER SINCE I WAS LITTLE, I HAVE OCCASIONALLY SEEN STRANGE THINGS

AS OTHERS CANNOT SEE THEM, THEY ARE MOST LIKELY WHAT YOU WOULD CALL YOUKAI

Ugh...

Let me go...

Apparently he can call on many ayakashi and control them

Let's crush his throat first, so he can't call his minions

!

Alright, open your mouth

!!

くぐぐ

くぐぐ

GYAH

ガッ

ゾッ

ゾッ

ブシ

ブシ

ん?

ぐるぐる

!!!

ザッ

げほ
げほ…

HA

Ugh

DON'T YOU DARE RUN, YOU...

ズッ

MU, WHO ARE YOU? I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU AROUND

WELL WHATEVER. HEY, HELP US

ばしっ

Gyah

IF YOU HELP US, WE WOULDN'T MIND SHARING A LEG WITH YOU...

THIS IS THAT NATSUME HUMAN

... NATSUME...?

ぼた

ぼん

ず

り

っ

!

AH

IT REALLY IS YOU, NATSUME REIKO

! IT KNOWS REIKO...?

ぱっ

ぱん

カホ

ぱっ

ごぼ

ごぼ

WHAT THE?! MY VOICE...

YOU WERE HIT, BY MIASMA, AND IT HURT, YOUR THROAT

...

...HUH?!

...

カホッ

...THANK YOU, SORRY, BUT I'M NOT REI...

AWAY!

REIKO, COME TO MY HOUSE, I, MIGHT HAVE SOME MEDICINE

YOU WON'T BE, ABLE TO SPEAK, FOR A WHILE, REIKO

HUH?!

WAH!

HUH? WAIT, I'M NOT REI...!

WHAT SHOULD I DO SO THAT I CAN PROTECT MYSELF...?

'SO'

...

UNTIL SENSEI COMES BACK FROM DRINKING?

HAVE I GOTTEN TO THE POINT WHERE I CAN'T EVEN RUN AN ERRAND

TOUKO-SAN ASKED ME TO DELIVER SOME CHESTNUTS TO A FRIEND OF HERS IN THE NEXT TOWN OVER

ON MY WAY HOME THOSE AYAKASHI STARTED CHASING ME, AND HERE I AM...

"IF YOU JOIN THE MATOBA, I WILL PROTECT YOU"

THIS IS THE VALLEY

WE'RE HERE

すとん…

I'LL FIND SOME SUPER MEDICINE

WAIT REIKO

I'LL GET SOME SUPER FISH

THAT'S NOT WHAT I SAID!!

...OKAY LEAVE IT TO ME

?

17°

17°

HOLD- HOLD ON, I'M NOT REIKO-SAN

THIS AYAKASHI CAN'T READ HUMAN LETTERS HUH...

HAHA

REIKO, CAME

Reiko-san passed away. I'm her grandson

I'M HAPPY

NOT REIKO-SAN

.SORRY, I'M

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO GET HOME?

ARE YOU OKAY REIKO?

SIGH

ぶきっ

Probably one with work

Ah, that flower, is pretty

I'll Get it

WAH. I DON'T NEED IT That's dangerous

げほっ げほっ！

AH

IF MY VOICE

STAYS LIKE THIS FOREVER

OH

COUGH

WHERE IS

WHAT HAPPENED

TO THE BOOK OF FRIENDS, REIKO?

THE BOOK OF FRIENDS?

ドクン

ドクン

ドクン

ひゅー

CHOMP

AH

DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT RUNNING AWAY FROM ME, YOU'RE JUST A SNACK

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, RUNNING AROUND AND ENDING UP IN A BACKWATER PLACE LIKE THIS?

NATSUME, I FINALLY FOUND YOU

!!?

UNDER-STAND? YOU WEAK

LIN...

OOH, A BOAR PIGLET

NATSUME WHO IS THIS GUY

Sigh...

I LOVE LIVELY PLACES

MORE GUESTS

GYAH, WHAT, WHAT?!

OH

MORE GUESTS

HONESTLY!

THOSE TWO WEAKLINGS CAST A SHABBY VOICE SEALING JUTSU ON YOU!

WELL, EVEN IF YOU JUST LEAVE IT ALONE, SOMETHING LIKE THIS WILL UNDO ITSELF IN TWO OR THREE DAYS.

SORRY, BUT SHE PASSED ON. THIS IS HER GRANDSON

YOU KNEW REIKO?

OI BIG GUY, THANKS FOR LOOKING AFTER HIM

DIDN'T COME.

I SEE

REIKO.

...OH

I SEE

どろん

LET'S GO HOME, NATSUME

WELL THEN

!!

YAWN

SQUEEZE

A YOUKAI WHO KNOWS REIKO-SAN...

I'm okay I'll go to the doctor's tomorrow

WANTED TO ASK ITS NAME

WELCOME HO.

カラ

ぱたん

I KIND OF

WHO MISTOOK ME FOR HER

AND SAVED ME

..AH .. NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT

NAME HUH

Sigh

IF IT KNEW REIKO, THEN MAYBE THAT AYAKASHI'S NAME

'WHERE IS, THE BOOK OF FRIENDS?'

IS IN THE BOOK OF FRIENDS

IF ITS NAME IS IN THE BOOK OF FRIENDS I'LL RETURN IT, AND THEN

I'LL GO SEE IT AGAIN

WHEN MY VOICE COMES BACK

CAN I STILL RETURN ITS NAME EVEN IF I CAN'T SPEAK?

01

こんにちは緑川です。
夏目友人帳としては14冊目のコミックスとなりました。

本当にありがとうございます。

長く続けさせて頂いておりますが、コミックスの枠色をワクワクしながら決めたことが、まだついこのあいだのことのようです。

大事に描きながら、楽しく読んで頂けるよう、精進いたします。

I don't want them to catch it, so I'll stay away

OH YES, NISHIMURA KUN CALLED

HE ASKED IF IT WAS OKAY FOR HIM AND TANUMA KUN TO COME BY ON THEIR WAY HOME AND GIVE YOU SOME HANDOUTS

...YES

FAIR ENOUGH

HOPEFULLY YOU'LL GET BETTER SOON

CLENCH

I COULDN'T STAND TO HAVE YOU SNATCHED FROM ME

I CAN'T LEAVE YOU TO GO DRINKING WHEN YOU'RE IN SUCH A SORRY STATE

Shut up sensei

Im bored~

3"

3"

HMPH, SHOULD I JUST WAIT FOR YOU TO RECOVER, OR SHOULD I CATCH THOSE TWO AND MAKE THEM DISPEL THE JUTSU?

WELL, THEY'LL PROBABLY COME ON THEIR OWN

BECAUSE THEY SHOULD KNOW HOW BIG THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY IS

AND THEY WERE UNDERHANDED ENOUGH TO DO SOMETHING LIKE STEAL YOUR VOICE

IF I WERE TO

GIVE UP THE BOOK OF FRIENDS

AND I COULD LIVE MY DAYS IN PEACE

I WONDER IF AYAKASHI WOULD CHASE ME LESS?

PERHAPS I WOULDN'T HAVE TO FEAR EXORCISTS

IF I WERE TO GIVE UP THE BOOK OF FRIENDS

EXCUSE ME

HONESTLY, WHY DID YOU HAVE TO SHOW UP TOO?

OH? WHAT'S THAT LUGGAGE FOR THEN?

I KNEW IT!!

MY NAME, IS IN THE BOOK OF FRIENDS

I CAME, TO HAVE IT RETURNED

WHEN YOU RETURN MY NAME

I'LL GO ON A JOURNEY

THAT VALLEY, USED TO BE LIVELY

BUT, I'VE BEEN ALONE THERE, FOR A LONG TIME

I'M BORED, SO WHY DON'T WE HAVE A MATCH?

IT WAS FUN WE PLAYED TOGETHER

SO MUCH, THAT IT REMINDED ME, OF WHAT THE VALLEY USED TO BE LIKE

ONE DAY, A GUEST CALLED REIKO-SAN CAME

WHEN SHE GOT LOST, ON A MOUNTAIN PATH, SHE SAID

I WON'T WAIT ANYMORE

NOW SHE'S GONE

BUT SHE DIDN'T COME

WAITING, WAS FUN

REIKO

MIGHT COME AGAIN

I'LL GET YOU, TO RETURN MY NAME

ぱく

ぱく

THEN I'LL LOOK FOR A LIVELY VALLEY ONCE MORE

ぱ～ん…

I DON'T KNOW, I CAN'T HEAR YOU.

GRANDSON OF REIKO

17°
5

17°
5

SHOULD I TRY, EVEN THOUGH I CAN'T SPEAK..?

12°
5

12°
5

ばちん

JUMP

!?

A BLACKOUT?

TOUKO-SAN!!

CRAP, IF THEY DID SOME-THING TO TOUKO-SAN

KYAA

IT'S PITCH BLACK, AND I CAN'T SEE A THING

IS THIS AN AYAKASHI'S DOING? CRAP, ARE THEY AFTER THE BOOK OF FRIENDS?!

WHERE'S SENSEI....?

SENSEI!

SEN...

HELP TOUKO-SAN...

SENSEI, SENSEI PLEASE

SENSEI!!

WHERE ARE YOU, NYANKO-SENSEI?!

NATSU-ME?

!

We found you, Natsume

We won't let you escape this time

We knocked down that fat cat and the blockhead when they were off their guard

ガッ

ドン

!!!

Hey

Don't struggle

ドン

ドン

ドン

I WILL LET YOU GO

...YOU REALLY THINK THAT WAS ENOUGH TO KNOCK ME DOWN?

YOU WEAKLINGS, LEAVE AT ONCE

I AM IN A BAD MOOD, AND I CANNOT HOLD BACK

JUST THIS ONCE

EEEK

.....

Please forgive us

ぴゃっ

ゴロロロ

ぱぁぁ

ぴゃっ

we'll return your voice

Ah

OW ..

ぱぁっ

ぽっ

AH, OH GOOD, THE LIGHTS ARE BACK

ARE YOU OKAY TAKASHI-KUN?

YE-YES.

...AH

どろんっ

OOH, IT'S BACK?

THEY WERE SCARED OFF BY MY GREATNESS, HOW FUN

MY VOICE... SENSEI!

THANK-YOU SENSEI

AND SO SOMEHOW I WAS ABLE TO GET MY VOICE BACK

HEY, ARE YOU OKAY? HEY

HMPH, WELL FOR ONE SUCH AS ME

AH

HEH, REALLY

'THERE WERE MANY FLOWERS, BIRDS, AYAKASHI, AND PEOPLE'

'YES!'

'YOU MEAN THIS VALLEY WAS ACTUALLY LIVELY AT ONE POINT?'

HOW STRANGE, EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE IN A DESOLATE PLACE LIKE THIS?'

'I LOVE LIVELY THINGS'

THEY MUST BE REALLY FUN

'ACTUALLY LIKE THEM TOO, LIVELY THINGS'

'HAHA'

'THEY MUST'

'I PROBABLY'

'BUT I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN'

REIKO IS GONE, TOO

THEY ALL DISAPPEARED, AS TIME WENT BY

THE FLOWERS, AND THE BIRDS THE AYAKASHI, AND THE PEOPLE

I HAVE NO TIES LEFT, TO THIS PLACE

THAT I'M NOT REIKO

I'M SORRY

..I SEE...

!

DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU COULDN'T HEAR ME?

...YOU SAID THAT BEFORE

ぱく ぱく

BUT

HER GRANDSON CAME

HAHA

REIKO DIDN'T COME

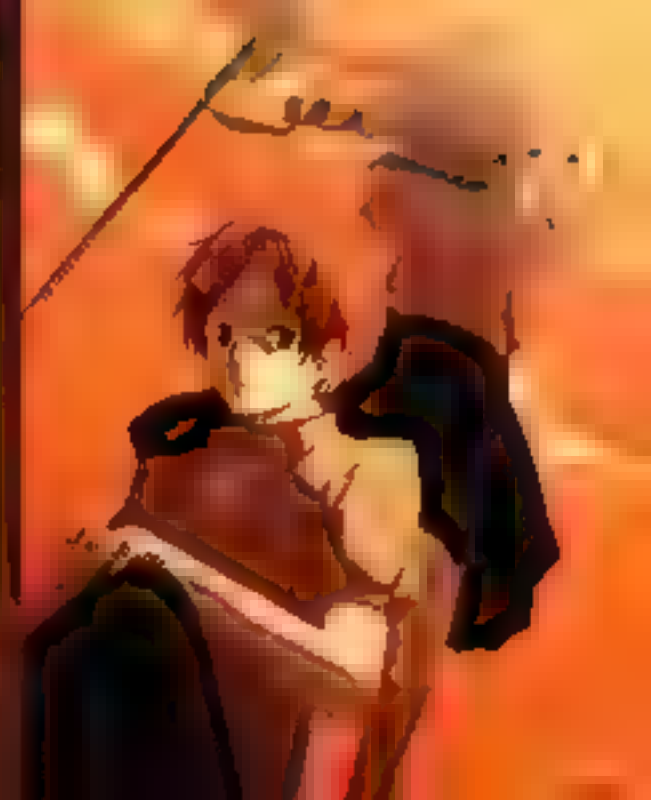
I WAS HAPPY

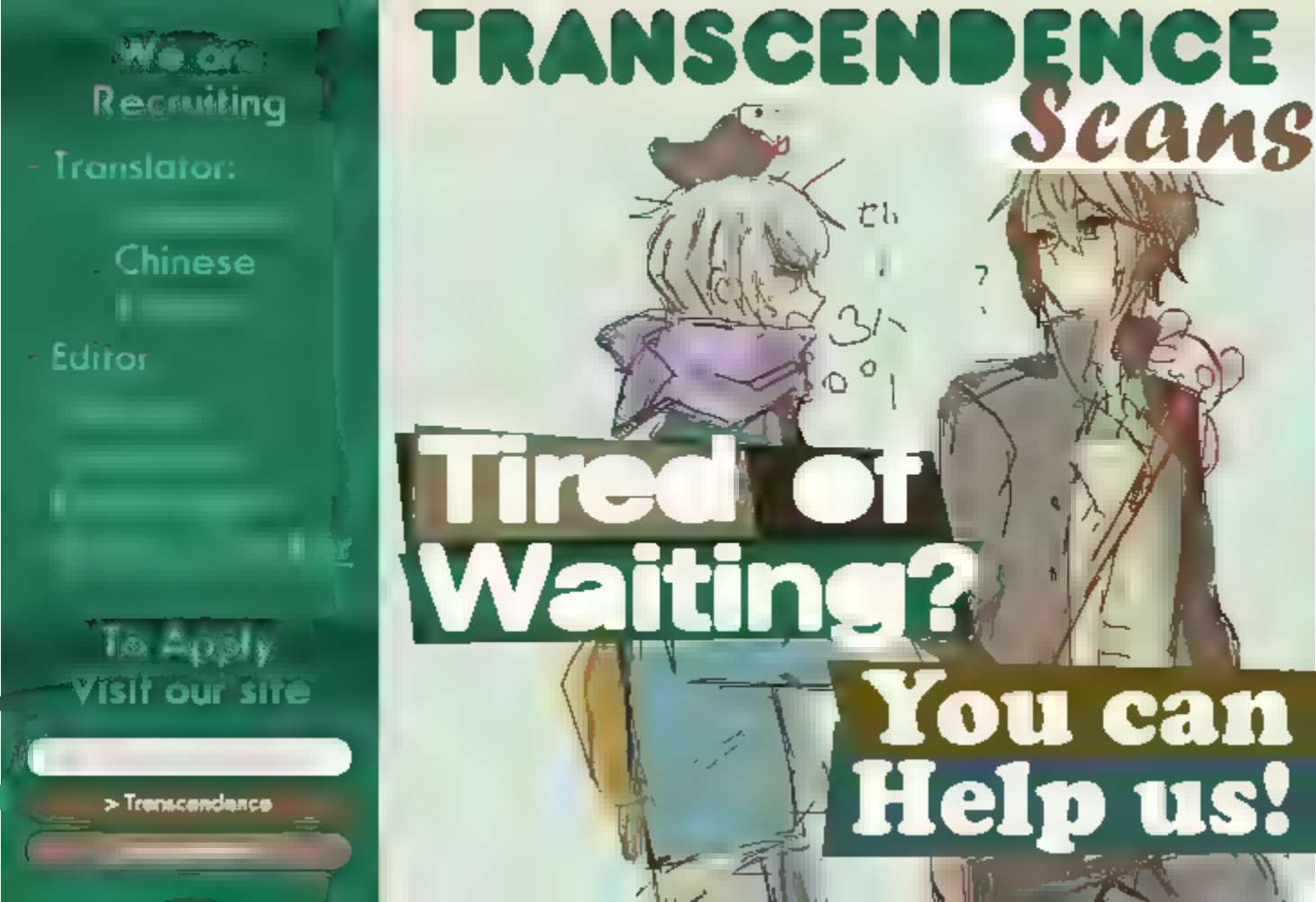
I LOVE, HAPPY THINGS

IDIOT

! WHY?!

Credits

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第五十六話

夏目友人帳

なつめゆうじんちょう

AS OTHERS CANNOT SEE THEM, THEY ARE MOST LIKELY WHAT YOU WOULD CALL YOUKAI

EVEN SINCE I WAS LITTLE I HAVE OCCASIONALLY SEEN STRANGE THINGS

WAH, IT'S RAINING

ぽ"

ぽ"

ばびゅーっ

A TOWEL?

WAH!?

YEAH...

IT'S PRETTY WINDY TOO, LET'S GET HOME BEFORE IS REALLY STARTS COMING DOWN

GIVE IT BACK

WHAT'S WRONG NATSUME? ...HUH? WHERE'D YOU GET THAT TOWEL?

IT GOT BLOWN OVER HERE ON THE WIND JUST NOW

びくっ

!

A KID!? ..NO, AN AYAKASHI?

Eh, wah

Hyaa it's cold

COME ON, RUN

HUH!? AH, HOLD ON A SECOND...

HEY NATSUME, LET'S RUN FOR IT. YOU'LL CATCH A COLD AGAIN IF YOU GET WET

...Is this yours?

TAKASHI-KUN, PUT YOUR WET UNIFORM OUT FOR ME PLEASE—

...OKAY—

HMM...

ALRIGHT, I'LL BE BACK SOON THEN

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

TO GIVE IT BACK

...AND SO I BROUGHT IT BACK WITH ME, THAT TOWEL

ガレ

WHAT A PAIN IN THE ASS, JUST LEAVE IT

I CAN'T DO THAT, AND BESIDES

AN AYAKASHI LIKE THAT WILL PROBABLY COME HERE TO GET IT BACK

I HAVE TO RETURN IT BEFORE IT COMES TO THAT

HONESTLY, IT'S PROBABLY JUST A WEAKLING ANYWAY, LEAVE IT BE

...A CHILD'S SANDALS... SO IT IS THE AYAKASHI FROM EARLIER...

...!

There's weak ones who come to have their names returned too so I eased off. You'll get mad at me if I just chase them away without asking won't you?

ポカ

Sense! How do they keep getting in so easily?

ポカ

IT'S ALREADY HERE

...HEY, WHERE ARE YOU!? I HAVE WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR

HAND IT OVER

I'LL THROW IT IN THE GARDEN, AND THAT WILL BE THAT

STOP IT SENSE., WHAT IF IT TAKES ITS ANGER OUT IN A WEIRD WAY?

Y-YEAH, I'LL WIPE HIS FEET

What

THERE'S WET FOOT-PRINTS ALL THROUGH THE HOUSE...

WAS IT THE CAT..?

OH DEAR, THE FLOOR IS ALL WET

YEAH YEAH...

ギ"ー

. .ANYWAY, LET'S GO BACK TO MY ROOM. I'M WORRIED ABOUT THE BOOK OF FRIENDS

THIS IS STUPID. I'M GOING BACK TO SLEEP

ギ"ー

YOU KNOW, THERE'S SOMETHING... STRANGE ABOUT THIS TOWEL

WHAT?

IT BELONGS TO AN AYAKASHI

BUT NISHIMURA AND KITAMOTO WERE ABLE TO SEE IT

カリ

SO THIS TOWEL IS ACTUALLY...

I'LL LEAVE THE TOWEL HERE.. COME ON SENSEI

I KNOW, I'LL GO MAKE SOME TEA OR SOMETHING

さっ

THERE'S SOMETHING UNDER THE DESK!?

ぱたん

そっ

OH MY GOD

SO IT IS A CHILD..

HEHEH

IT'S HERE..

THANK GOODNESS

AH

IT'S HERE!

そっ

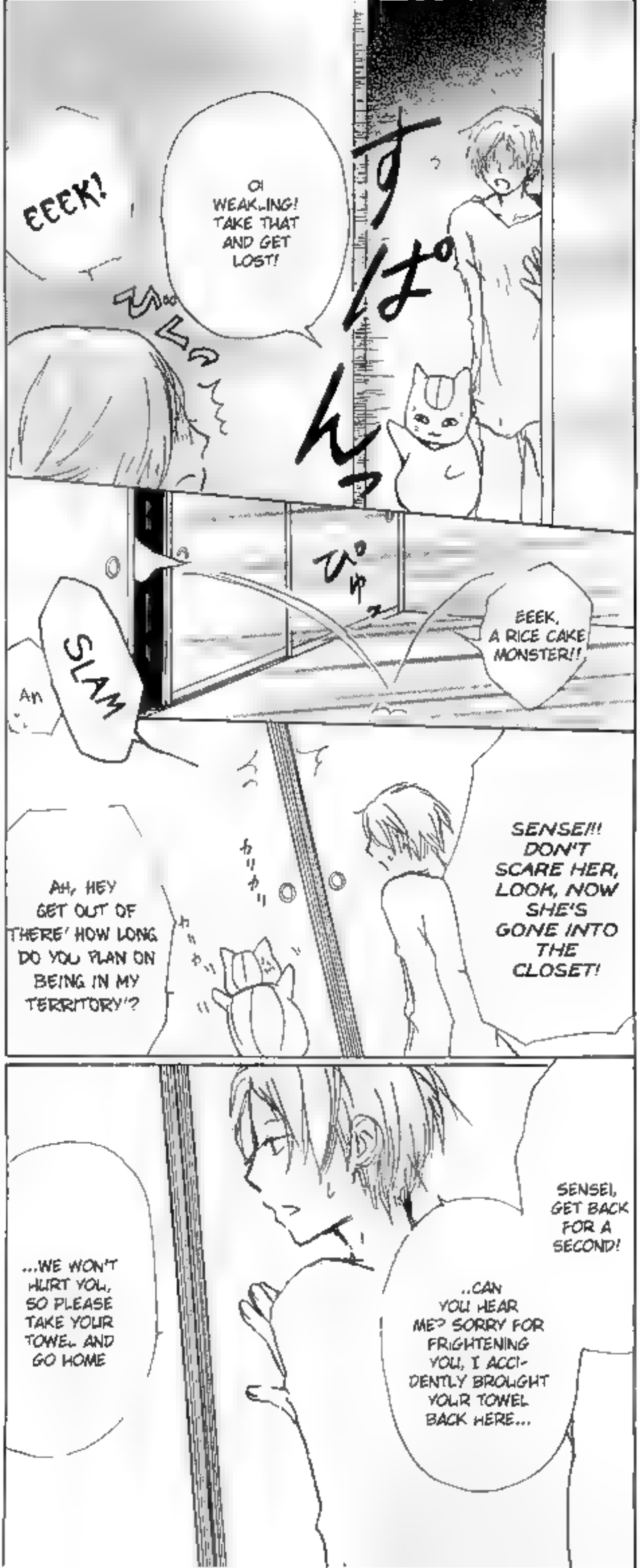
…

02

前回、ここに少しキャラについて書かせて頂いたので今巻もポツポツ書いてみます。

※タキ

タキ視点からをとても描いてみたいです。一度、番外編で描く機会があって挑戦してみたのですが、ページと調整が難しくて断念したことがありまして。女の子を描くと、どうしても感情があふれてしまって、描くことに欲張りになります。夏目がきつい時も、一緒にいればニコニコしてしまうようなやわらかい子に描いていきたいです。



...YES

SHE HAS A SURPRISINGLY BAD MOUTH

I ACTUALLY CAME HERE BECAUSE I HAVE A FAVOUR TO ASK. WHILE I WAS WAITING FOR A CHANCE TO APPROACH YOU, MY PRECIOUS WASH CLOTH WAS BLOWN AWAY .

...SO YOU REALLY CAN SEE AYAKASHI . ME, LIKE THE RUMOURS SAY

.SO YOU'RE THAT FOOL NATSUME?

THAT WASH CLOTH IS A HUMAN OBJECT, AND I WISH TO RETURN IT TO ITS OWNER

AS YOU HAVE NOTICED, FOOL

.A FAVOUR?

I'M SURE YOU'LL BE ABLE TO FIND HIM IN NO TIME!

YOU DON'T SEE A MAN AS HANDSOME AS THAT VERY OFTEN

FIND HIM FOR ME

. .OWNER. CAN YOU DESCRIBE HIM?

AND ANYWAY, I DON'T HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO HELP YOU

THEN YOU CAN FIND HIM YOURSELF CAN'T YOU?

IMPOS-SIBLE.

HE LOOKS LIKE THIS

...LIKE ALWAYS, AT TIMES LIKE THIS

...PLEASE... I DON'T... KNOW WHAT ELSE TO DO...

...SORRY, BUT I CAN'T HELP YOU

...I WILL USE ALL MY POWER TO TRY AND DO SOMETHING ABOUT ANYONE YOU'D LIKE CURSED OR HAUNTED, SO PLEASE

IF IT'S JUST HEARING YOU OUT, THEN...

FOR REAL!?

AT ANY RATE, COULD YOU PLEASE COME OUT OF THERE?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO EITHER

ドサッ

SURE

SO SHE REALLY IS A CHILD AFTER ALL...

ドドド

OI, STOP! I WON'T LET YOU DO WHATEVER YOU PLEASE ANY LONGER, PUT THAT DOWN!!

HUH!? YOU KNOW WHERE HE IS!?

TO THE TOWN WHERE THAT MAN IS

WAH, HUH!? GO WHERE!?

ALRIGHT

OFF WE GO, NATSUME-SAMA!!

Bang

...what did you say!?

Hey, Get lost you rice cake monster

Bang

Clatter

Wai- out it out

...I SEE

I'VE NEVER BEEN TO THIS TOWN BEFORE

AND I AGREED TO GO TO THE TOWN WHERE THIS MAN APPARENTLY WAS THE NEXT DAY

...IN THE END, TO KEEP THE PEACE I WAS DRAGGED OFF BY THE GIRL

ーへえ

ざーわ

ざーわ

ざーわ

AROUND FIFTY

HOW MANY YEARS AGO WAS THAT?

THAT TOWEL LOOKED PRETTY OLD, A LOT OF THE, TIME IN THESE CASES.

BE CAREFUL

HERE

...NO, I...

YOU SHOULD HAVE JUST LET HER GET CAUGHT IN THE CROWD AND LOST

AH, I SUPPOSE I COULD HAVE...

キョロ キョロ

.. WE'RE PRETTY FAR OUT OF TOWN

AH, SEE, OVER THERE. HE HAS USED THAT 'BUS STOP' THING FOR MANY YEARS

HOWEVER I HAVE NOT SEEN HIM THIS PAST YEAR.

YEAH

HE MIGHT HAVE MOVED THOUGH. .. IF WE CAN FIND HIS OLD HOUSE, THEN THERE MIGHT BE SOMEONE THERE WHO KNOWS

!

THERE IS, ISN'T THERE!?

IF HE'S BEEN USING A BUS STOP FOR FIFTY YEARS, THEN THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE HE LIVES SOMEWHERE NEARBY

!

SO THIS IS A RECENT THING

.. HOWEVER

HE MAY NOT BE IN GOOD HEALTH

AH

ONE MORE TIME

.AND SO

...THEN THIS TIME, I MUST RETURN IT

IF I AM GRANTED THE CHANCE TO SEE HIM ONE MORE TIME

WE WALKED ALL OVER THE AREA AROUND THE BUS STOP

IF WE HAD SOME KIND OF CHARACTERISTIC TO GO BY WE COULD HAVE ASKED PEOPLE BUT NO MATTER HOW IMPORTANT HE WAS TO HER, WITHOUT A NAME WE HAD NO CLUES

...SORRY... LET'S TAKE A LITTLE BREAK

WHAT!? HOW, HOW WEAK...

...AH, THAT'S RIGHT

I HEARD THAT HUMANS CAN BECOME ILL JUST FROM GETTING WET IN THE RAIN...

...WHAT?

H-HANG IN THERE NATSUME-SAMA! YOU MUST NOT BREATHE YOUR LAST IN A PLACE LIKE THIS!!

UM... WATER, SHALL I FETCH YOU SOME WATER!?

...NO, I'M FINE

THANKS

HOW LONG CAN HUMANS LIVE FOR?

...NATSUME-SAMA

I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT PEOPLE

..I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING

ほっ…

IS HE STILL ALIVE?

OKAY

SURELY IT'S ALSO IMPORTANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU'VE LOST

WE MIGHT STILL MAKE IT IN TIME, AND IF WE CAN'T

..BUT IF YOU WANT TO SEE HIM, LET'S TRY TO FIND HIM

...SORRY, I DON'T KNOW

...AH

...AH?

HM? WHAT IS IT?

...

ぎゅっ

. ALRIGHT, LET'S TRY OVER THERE NOW

?

タン

HUH?

I THINK I SMELT HIM!

! THIS WAY

...AREN'T WE LOOKING FOR... AN OLD MAN?

BUT... I CAN SMELL HIM ON HER...

. YES, THERE'S NO MISTAKING THAT ...LOOK SCENT

IT'S THAT GIRL

EXCUSE ME, UM...

だっ

びくっ

YES, NOW MAYBE WE CAN...

AH, SHE'S LEAV-ING

HUH?

AH

A RELATIVE? SO THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE SHE'S HIS GRAND-DAUGHTER THEN!

WELL, YOU SMELL LIKE REIKO

...YES?

...UM!

I USED TO SEE HIM OFTEN AT THE BUS STOP UP AHEAD, UNTIL ABOUT A YEAR AGO

しまった つい夢中で…

...WHAT?

DO YOU HAVE A GRANDFATHER?

Oh my god, was he like, staring at you?

He's kinda cute!

... CUT IT OUT!

NANAKO WHAT'S WRONG?

AH, UM...

SO, SORRY, I HAVE TO GO TO CRAM SCHOOL ..

BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM LATELY AND... UM... I WAS WORRIED.

...

SORRY, I FAILED

BUT I'LL COME BACK AGAIN

AND I'LL TRY TO SPEAK TO HER

THANK YOU!

There she is!

Ah

ハァ？

HUH ...?

THAT'S A LIE, WHY ARE YOU LYING!?

I OFTEN SAW YOUR GRAND-FATHER AT THAT...

YOU'RE LYING

EXCUSE ME

JUST A FEW MINUTES IS FINE, COULD YOU PLEASE HEAR ME OUT?

I ASKED MY GRANDFATHER, AND HE SAID HE WAS USUALLY ALONE AT THAT BUS STOP

HE SAID HE'D NEVER MET A BOY AROUND YOUR AGE!!

.. WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU PLAYING AT. .?

はっ…

HE'S WEL..

.....

THANK GOOD-NESS. .

. ANYWAY, THAT'S HOW IT IS

PLEASE DON'T TALK TO ME AGAIN

AH WAI. .

ぎゅっ

I'M GLAD THAT HE'S STILL ALIVE...

IT'S ENOUGH FOR ME JUST TO KNOW THAT

THANK YOU, NATSUME-SAMA

SORRY

YOU GOT CALLED A LIAR BECAUSE OF ME ..

...SORRY, NATSUME-SAMA

.. IT'S OKAY

.. SORRY

. WHAT WAS HE LIKE? THE PERSON YOU'RE LOOKING FOR

.....

AND THEN

びくっ

ぽしゃ

ぽしゃ

HEY

I WAS FROLICKING ABOUT IN THE LOVELY RAIN

IT HAPPENED ONE RAINY DAY

AH, HURRY UP AND COME INTO THE SHELTER!

ばしゃ

ばしゃ

STIFF

HUH?

YOU CAN SEE ME...?

QUICKLY

COME OVER HERE

HEY, WHAT'RE YOU DOING? YOU'LL CATCH A COLD

ばさ

ばさ

...WHERE ARE YOU FROM? CAN YOU GET HOME?

OF COURSE I CAN!

MY DWELLING IS JUST OVER THERE

I SEE

YOU CAN KEEP THAT TOWEL. SO DRY YOURSELF OFF PROPERLY

MAKE SURE YOU DON'T CATCH A COLD

I GOT THE FEELING IT MUST BE SOMETHING VERY INCREDIBLY VALUABLE

IT WAS SOMEHOW WARM AND SOFT

AND SO I TOOK THE WASH CLOTH HOME

AH, MY BUS IS HERE, SEE YOU LATER

I THOUGHT I OUGHT TO RETURN IT AFTER ALL, AND THE NEXT DAY I WENT TO THE BUS STOP THING

HEY! THANK YOU FOR YESTER-DAY!

さっ

.. HEY?

..I WANTED TO RETURN THE...

...HEY?

A WEAK AYAKASHI LIKE ME WILL SOMETIMES BE EXPOSED TO HUMANS THROUGH THE MISCHIEF OF THE HEAVENS DURING A SUN SHOWER OR ON A CLEAR SPRING DAY

THERE ARE SOME AMONG THE POWERFUL AND BEAST AYAKASHI WHO CAN SHOW THEMSELVES TO HUMANS AT THEIR OWN WILL

I WAS SO HAPPY TO BE ABLE TO SPEAK TO A HUMAN THAT IT COMPLETELY SLIPPED MY MIND

IT'S UNUSUAL FOR A HUMAN TO BE ABLE TO SEE ME... TO SEE AN AYAKASHI

I WOULD GO TO THAT BUS STOP

EVER SINCE THAT DAY, WHENEVER IT RAINED

MUST HAVE BEEN A ONE OFF .. JUST ONE OF THOSE TIMES

..THAT RAINY DAY

MAYBE HE WOULD

SPEAK TO ME AGAIN

I THOUGHT PERHAPS THAT IF I FROLICKED IN THE RAIN

MAYBE HE WOULD SEE ME AGAIN FOR A MOMENT

WHEN I SAW HIM IN THE RAIN, I JUST

...BUT NO MATTER HOW MANY YEARS PASSED

I COULD HAVE JUST LEFT IT THERE

...IF I REALLY JUST WANTED TO GIVE IT BACK

COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO LEAVE IT THERE

...BUT IT'S FINE NOW, NATSUME-SAMA

SO THE PAIN OF NOT SEEING HIM THIS PAST YEAR HAS LESSENED

...I KNOW THAT HE IS SAFE

WAIT HERE

HUH? AH

NATSUME-SAMA!?

! NATSUME

EXCUSE ME

! THERE YOU ARE

EXCUSE ME

Cough

UM...

...ARE YOU ALRIGHT? ...DO YOU... STILL NEED SOMETHING?

. .MY NAME IS NATSUME TAKASHI

THE TRUTH IS A FRIEND OF MINE WAS HELPED OUT A GREAT DEAL BY YOUR GRAND-FATHER, AND IF HE IS WELL SHE'D LIKE TO CONTACT HIM

SHE REALLY WANTS TO MEET HIM BUT... SHE CAN'T COME HERE HERSELF .

...

...HAHA, YOU REALLY ARE WORRIED ABOUT HIM AREN'T YOU...?

HE'S OKAY, HE JUST HAD SOME COMPLICATIONS WITH A COLD. I THINK HE'LL BE ABLE TO COME HOME SOON THOUGH

MY GRAND-FATHER IS IN HOSPITAL AT THE MOMENT AS WELL

WHAT!?

CAN'T COME HERSELF .. SO . IS SHE SICK TOO?

HUH?

EH

EH

HE MIGHT JUST STARE AT ME LIKE I'M CRAZY

.SO ACCORDING TO HIS GRAND-DAUGHTER, HE'S HOSPITALISED IN YAMATO HOSPITAL NO.2 AT THE MOMENT

AND HIS NAME IS KUROSAKI SOUGO-SAN

BUT I WANT TO AT LEAST TRY

...OKAY

...LET'S VISIT HIM TOMORROW

LET'S... RETURN HIS TOWEL

Mmmm
Sougo san
AH, I'M EXHAUSTED, WE SHOULD GO TO SLEEP AS WELL
Y,-YEAH
...SHOULD I BORROW ONE OF TAKI'S CIRCLES...?
NO, THEY DON'T ALWAYS WORK EITHER
IF HE DOESN'T HAVE AT LEAST THE SENSITIVITY OF TAKI OR TANUMA, I'LL JUST GET HER HOPES UP FOR NOTHING
AND
THEY CAUSED TAKI PAIN...

ARE YOU ASLEEP ALREADY?

SENSEI ?

SENSEI.

SENSEI?

AND IF HE WERE TO SEE THAT TOWEL AND REMEMBER ME

HAHA, I'D BE SO HAPPY I WOULD CRY

IF I SEE HIM, I'LL LOSE MY RESOLVE AGAIN

ALRIGHT NATSUME-SAMA, PLEASE GIVE THIS BACK TO HIM

HUH? YOU'RE NOT COMING?

MEET MANY OTHER PEOPLE

PEOPLE

THE SKY'S TURNED OVERCAST

HERE YOU GO

...OKAY, I'LL GO

THE MEETING AND FORGETTING IS DIZZYING

UNLIKE AYAKASHI, FOR WHOM EVERY MEETING IS BURNED INTO MEMORY

EXCUSE ME

SORRY FOR COMING HERE OUT OF THE BLUE

...MY, WHAT A YOUNG VISITOR WE HAVE HERE

THE TRUTH IS, WHEN MY GRANDMOTHER WAS YOUNG, YOU LENT HER A TOWEL AT A BUS STOP

...MY NAME IS NATSUME TAKASHI

NICE TO MEET YOU

ON A RAINY DAY, YOU PUT THIS ON THE HEAD OF A SMALL GIRL

.DO YOU REMEMBER?

OH DEAR

SHE NEVER GAVE IT BACK, AND IT SEEMS LIKE IT'S BEEN WORRYING HER FOR A LONG TIME...

...THAT'S VERY KIND OF HER

...WELL... I DON'T REALLY REMEMBER, BUT...

.SOUGO-
SAN

ポツ

ポツ

ポツ

ポツ

ポツ

...OH, IT'S RAINING

...YES

BUT I'M SURE IT WILL CLEAR UP IN NO TIME

TAKE CARE

I'M GOING HOME

THANK YOU, NATSUME-SAMA

I'M SORRY, UM... COULD I HAVE A TOKEN TO SHOW THAT I RETURNED THE TOWE...?

EVEN IF IT'S JUST A FEW LINES . ANYTHING IS FINE, I JUST WANT PROOF THAT I'VE GIVEN IT BACK, FOR MY GRANDMOTHER..

OH, YOU'RE ..

HE- HELLO

IT'S NATSUME, FROM YESTERDAY

HOW ABOUT THIS?

WELL WELL, OF COURSE

I'M SORRY TO BE SO SELFISH, UM...

...TH...

PLEASE GIVE THIS TO YOUR GRANDMOTHER, FOR BEING SO KIND AS TO RETURN MY TOWEL

I HAVEN'T USED IT YET

HUH?

THANK YOU.

...HONESTLY.

HEY

I HAVE SOMETHING FOR YOU!

ARE YOU STILL HERE?

CAN YOU STILL HEAR ME!?

HEY

ざぁぁぁ

やら…

…NATSUME-SAMA?

THERE YOU ARE!

…SOUGO-SAN GAVE ME THIS FOR RETURNING THE TOWEL ..

IT'S A TOWEL…

FOR YOU

…

IT'S BEAUTI-FUL

WAAAH

IT'S SO BEAUTI-FUL

..FOR ME?

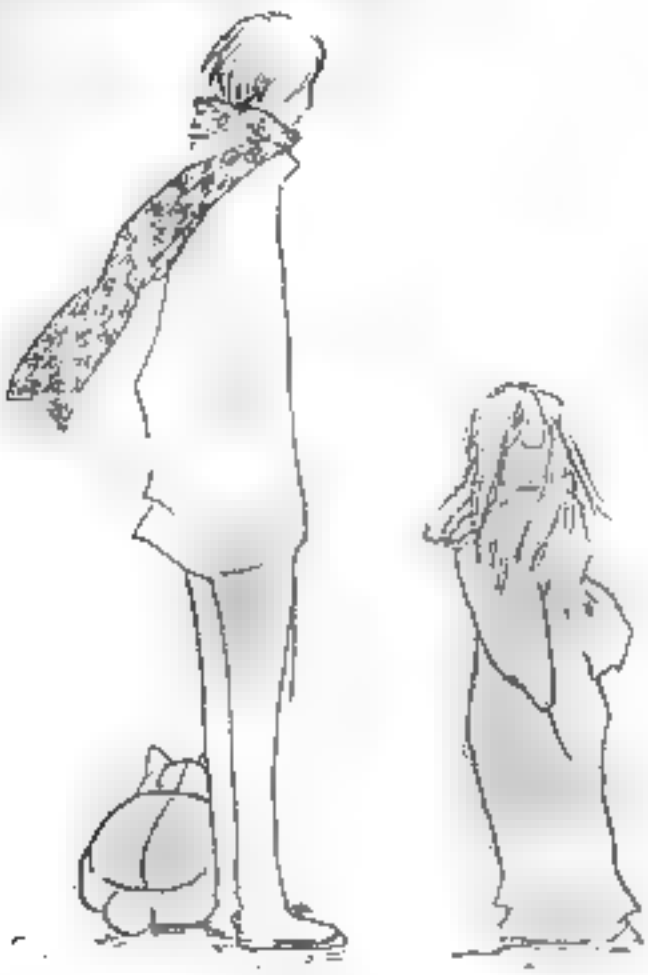
WAAAAH…

NO PROB-LEM...

IT'S A GOOD THING IT'S SUNNY TODAY

THANK YOU, NATSUME-SAMA

I'M GLAD YOUR BEAUTIFUL TOWEL DIDN'T GET WET



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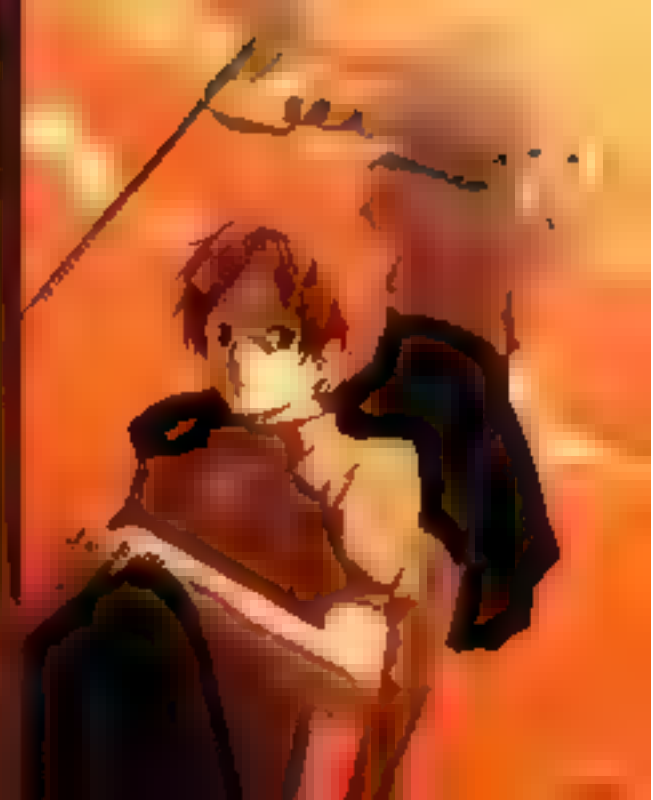

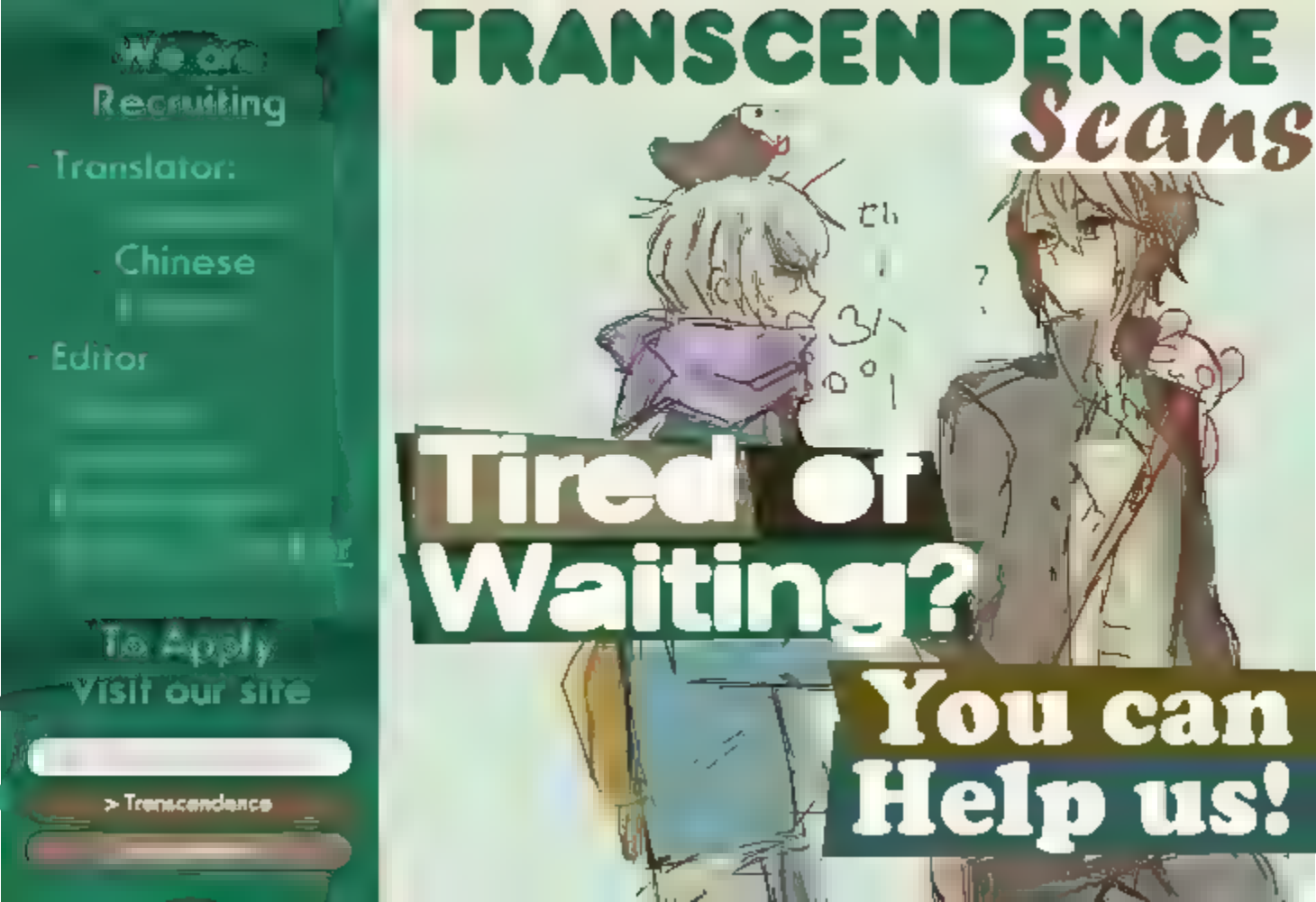
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第五十七話

だいごじゅうななわ

EVER SINCE I WAS A CHILD, I HAVE SEEN STRANGE THINGS FROM TIME TO TIME

NATSUME-SAMA

AS OTHERS CANNOT SEE THEM, THEY ARE MOST LIKELY WHAT YOU WOULD CALL YOUKAI

NATSUME REIKO-SAMA

PLEASE RETURN MY NAME

NISHIMURA, KITAMOTO, I FORGOT SOMETHING SO YOU GUYS GO ON AHEAD

Okay

But I'm not Reiko-san

NO, YOU ARE REIKO-SAMA

NO

YOU ARE NATSUME... NATSUME REIKO

REIKO-SAN IS

NO, I'M NOT

NO, I SAID.

HUH?

T-/N THE FIRST HALF OF REIKO'S NAME T/N: (REI) ALSO MEANS 'GHOST' OR 'SPIRIT' REIKO'S NAME IS NOT WRITTEN IN KANJI. BUT IF IT WERE ONCE POSSIBLE WAY OF WRITING IT WOULD BE 'GHOST CHILD'

GEEZ, YOU SCARED ME, WHAT'S WRONG NATSUME?

WOAH!?

わ!! は!! WAAAAH!?

Gi... girl

Re... Rei...

GIRL!?

GHOST?

A HOT GIRL? WERE YOU DREAMING ABOUT A HOT GIRL!?

. WHAT? DID YOU DREAM ABOUT A GHOST...?

Ha

AH, SORRY .. I MUST HAVE BEEN DREAMING .

AS ALWAYS, MY DAYS OF RETURNING NAMES CONTINUE

..THE HEART OF THE MOUNTAINS?

.AH

OH, SOUNDS NICE

IT'S A LITTLE FAR, BUT IT'S IN A GORGE IN THE HEART OF THE MOUNTAINS

OH YEAH, WANT TO GO FISHING THIS SUNDAY NATSUME?

WELCOME HOME TAKASHI-KUN, WE'VE FINALLY GOT A BIT OF NICE WEATHER

DINNER WON'T BE READY FOR A WHILE, SO YOU CAN GO FOR A WALK OR SOMETHING IF YOU'D LIKE

OKAY! ...AH, WHERE'S NYANKO-SENSEI...?

. THANKS BUT I'LL PASS, I'M FEELING A LITTLE UNDER THE WEATHER

. .OH

HE'S BEEN OUT SINCE AROUND NOON

...UM... TODAY I WANTED TO HANG OUT IN MY ROOM, SO...

OH?

DEAR DEAR

ばたん

FISHING HUH I WANT TO GO, BUT

..IF I COULD USE JUTSU TOO..

IF

I CAN'T AGREE WITH THE EXORCISTS

AND I SAID I COULDN'T HELP THEM

GETTING THEM TO TEACH ME JUTSU IS EXPECTING TOO MUCH

HE'D PROBABLY SMILE AND TEACH ME

NATORI-SAN

WOULD FORGIVE ALL THAT

ME, WHO IS IN A WARM PLACE

...

IT HAD TO BE AN EXORCIST WHO STUCK HIM IN THAT WEIRD FORM..

CLATTER

HE'S AN AYAKASHI WHO WAS SEALED IN A MANEKI NEKO

SENSEI DOESN'T SAY ANYTHING, BUT I'M SURE HE DOESN'T REALLY WANT TO GET INVOLVED WITH EXORCISTS

AT ANY RATE EXORCISM JUTSU ARE .

ME, WHO CAN GIVE HIM NOTHING IN RETURN. .

がばっ

. NOTHING, I WAS JUST THINKING THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO DO CRUEL THINGS

WHAT?

KNOCK KNOCK

MU? WHAT?

stare

OH, WHAT'S WITH YOU NATSUME? YOU'RE STILL INSIDE...?

ぽんっ

HELLO, YOU ARE NATSUME-SAMA, ARE YOU NOT?

PLEASE RETURN MY NAME

ふぅ…

HOW DID REIKO-SAN PROTECT HERSELF?

...NOW I THINK ABOUT IT

NO MATTER HOW MANY I RETURN

WHAT I SEE WHEN I RETURN A NAME IS ALWAYS THE SAME, MY GRANDMOTHER'S NAME

THE REIKO-SAN I SEE IS ALWAYS ALONE

...

SHE WENT AROUND FLAUNTING THAT SPIRITUAL POWER YOU WERE BORN WITH

HM? HOW DID REIKO PROTECT HERSELF?

HMPH, AS IF I'D KNOW EVERY LITTLE THING ABOUT THAT LITTLE GIRL

THAT'S TRUE, BUT SOMETIMES SHE USED STUFF THAT LOOKED LIKE JUTSU DIDN'T SHE?

DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HER, SENSEI?

EVEN IF I WANT TO KNOW ABOUT REIKO-SAN, WHERE ON EARTH AM I SUPPOSED TO ASK...?

....I GUESS NOT...

HAHA, THAT'S TRUE I GUESS

BUT I DON'T

WELL, THIS IS THE WOMAN WHOSE PROOF OF HER EVIL DEEDS IS THE ONLY THING THAT SHE LEFT BEHIND THAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT

I PROBABLY WON'T HEAR ANYTHING GOOD FROM AYAKASHI

HEAR ANYTHING GOOD FROM HUMANS E THER

AFTER A.L, REIKO-SAN... MY GRAND-MOTHER...

HM?

...IT'S NOTHING

I'm off—

AH

NISHIMURA, KITAMO.

Ha

ROU ROU

...JUST MY IMAGINATION

Glance

SOMETHING IS... ROLLING OVER HERE

roll

roll

roll

roll

roll

roll

roll

roll

roll

roll

IF IT'S ROLLING ON ITS OWN LIKE THAT, IT'S PROBABLY NOT A NORMAL POT!

A POT!? IT'S COMING THIS WAY...

Roll

Roll

Roll

Roll

Roll

Roll

Roll

Roll

Roll

OR IS IT AN AYAKA-SHI...!?

IS, IS IT REALLY JUST A POT?

IT'S BIG ENOUGH FOR SOMEBODY TO FIT INSIDE...

きょろ

きょろ

Sigh

TAKASHI-KUN— CAN YOU DO ME A FAVOUR?

COULD YOU PLEASE TAKE THIS WATCH TO THE REPAIR SHOP IN TOWN?

- SURE... AH...

YEAH, I MIGHT HAVE JUST RUN INTO SOMEONE WHO WAS ROLLING AROUND IN A POT THOUGH

HM...

AH

...MU? YOU WERE CHASED BY A POT?

That's where the ramen shops and the cake shops and things are!

WHAT? TOWN? I'LL GO TOO!

SENSE

Oh

03

※名取

初めて登場した時から、変わりつつあるような、逆にまったく変わっていないような不思議な感覚です。夏目に対する考え方は変化していっているのですが、本人自体は揺らぎを許せないタイプかもと思っております。

※柊

とても特別な存在です。夏目が名取になかなか素直になれないのは、自由になったはずの柊を、式という形で手元に置きつづけていることに深層で抵抗があるからかとも思っています。

Thump

Thump

... DO YOU KNOW HER?

YEAH.. I'VE SEEN HER AT FAMILY GATHERINGS

MY, WHAT A CLEVER SON YOU HAVE

IT WAS CERTAINLY AN UPHILL BATTLE THOUGH

HAHAHA, THAT'S RIGHT, OUR SON FINALLY GOT INTO THAT SCHOOL

WAIT SENSEI, THIS IS MY CHANCE I'M GOING TO TALK TO HER FOR A SECOND

HMPH, LET'S GO NATSUME

TO THE RAMEN STORE

BUT THERE COULD BE SOMEONE WHO KNOWS SOMETHING ABOUT REIKO-SAN, RIGHT?

..I ONLY... HAVE RELATIVES ON MY FATHER'S SIDE

. WHAT?

AH, ARE YOU A FRIEND OF MY SON'S? ...AH .

..OH? DEAR, WHO MIGHT YOU BE...?

HELLO

Hahaha

SO THEN HE BEGGED US FOR A FEW THINGS AS A REWARD, SO HE'S TRAVELLING A BIT AT THE MOMENT

Haha

Smile

THANK YOU FOR LOOKING AFTER ME

IT'S BEEN A WHILE

I'M NATSUME TAKASHI

UM, WHOSE HOUSE WAS IT YOU'RE LIVING IN NOW? . SORRY, WE COULDN'T... YOU KNOW...

PLEASE, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, I'M MUCH MORE WELL BEHAVED NOW SORRY FOR HOW I ACTED BACK THEN

NATSU-ME ?

.AH... OH! DEAR, YOU'VE GOTTEN SO BIG...

YES, SORRY ABOUT THAT

SO, UM. . I HAVE SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU. DO YOU KNOW ANYBODY WHO WOULD KNOW A .OT ABOUT MY MATERNAL GRANDMOTHER?

I SEE. THAT'S GOOD

YOU WERE A BIT STRANGE BACK THEN WEREN'T YOU? THAT'S NO GOOD. YOU CAN'T SCARE PEOPLE FOR FUN JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE A CHILD

HAHAHA

WHAT? ...NATSUME-SAN'S...? WHY DO YOU WANT TO KNOW THAT?

WELL, I'D LIKE TO KNOW ABOUT MY MOTHER'S RELATIVES AS WELL, EVEN THOUGH THERE AREN'T MANY

WHAT? BUT BOTH GENERATIONS OF THE NATSUMES DIDN'T REALLY HAVE ANY RELATIVES

THAT'S WHY WE, YOUR FATHER'S RELATIVES, TOOK YOU IN, ISN'T IT?

WE WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THEM BACK THEN TOO

AH, I'M SORRY. BUT IT'S TROUBLING TO BE ASKED ABOUT THIS

Ha

...SORRY

ESPECIAL..Y... EVEN YOUR MOTHER'S BIRTH WAS...

YOUR GRANDMOTHER WAS VERY STRANGE YOU SEE, SHE WASN'T QUITE ALL THERE

YES, AFTER AL..

YOU'RE RIGHT, SORRY FOR ASK.NG SOMETHING SO DIFFICULT TO TAL.K ABOUT

I JUST THOUGHT IT WOULD BE NICE TO KNOW A LITTLE ABOUT WHAT REIKO-SAN WAS. . ..IKE, THAT'S AL..

THANK YOU

...IS THAT SO? WEL.., I'M GLAD YOU SEEM HAPPY

TAKE CARE

D-DID YOU SEE THAT?

HAS SOME-THING HAPPENED AGAIN LATE..

ARE YOU OKAY NATSUME?

TA-TANUMA!? WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE!?

HUH? I CAME TO BUY MANJUU AT THAT STORE...

NATSU-ME?

...OI, NATSU-ME .

DID YOU HEAR...?

..I DIDN'T HEAR, BUT I SAW A LITTLE

UM...

WHO WAS THAT?

...I HAVEN'T SEEN HER AROUND BEFORE

...NO, PLEASE HEAR ME OUT

AH. NO, SORRY

I JUST...

NO MATTER WHO I ASK, I ALWAYS GET THE SAME KIND OF ANSWER

IT'S ALL STUFF I DON'T REALLY WANT TO HEAR

..I WANTED TO ASK HER ABOUT MY GRAND-MOTHER

SHE LOOKED AFTER ME FOR A LITTLE WHILE WHEN I WAS A KID

.. SHE'S A RELATIVE ON MY FATHER'S SIDE

WHEN I WAS LITTLE, I HEARD THE ADULTS TALKING

AND...

SO THEY SAY SHE WAS A WEIRDO, OR THAT SHE WAS MENTALLY ILL

SHE COULD SEE THEM, LIKE ME

REIKO-SAN... MY GRAND-MOTHER

HAD A CHILD WITHOUT MARRYING

MY MOTHER NEVER KNEW HER FATHER

SO WHENEVER I ASK ABOUT REIKO-SAN

THEY ALWAYS SAY

'SHE MUST HAVE SLEPT AROUND'

OR 'I BET THE GUY DUMPED HER'

NATSUME

...THAT'S WHY I'M AFRAID OF KNOWING ABOUT HER

.. IT'S OKAY

YOU DON'T HAVE TO TALK ABOUT IT IF YOU DON'T WANT TO

YEAH

..SO...

BUT THE REIKO-SAN THAT THE AYAKASHI TALK ABOUT IS DIFFERENT SOMEHOW

...YEAH

SHE'S YOUR GRANDMOTHER, AND SHE'S IMPORTANT TO YOU, RIGHT?

THANK YOU

THANK YOU, TANUMA

FOR LISTENING

...SORRY SENSE!

...I DON'T KNOW

BUT THE REIKO-SAN IN YOUR MEMORIES IS SMILING, SO...

...MU? WHY ARE YOU APOLOGIS-ING?

I REALLY DON'T UNDERSTAND YOU SOME-TIMES

. WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

..I DIDN'T WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THIS

THAT NIGHT I HAD A DREAM

ABOUT A WOMAN WHO WAS SMILING VERY KINDLY

SHE WAS GAZING AT SOME-THING VERY GENTLY

I JUST REMEMBER THINKING IT WASN'T REIKO.

BUT

I DON'T KNOW WHO IT WAS

BECAUSE SHE WASN'T WEARING A SCHOOL UNIFORM

yawn...

IT WAS AS THOUGH A LITTLE WEIGHT HAD LIFTED OFF MY HEART AFTER I TOLD TANUMA ABOUT REIKO-SAN

IT'S JUST TANUMA AND HIS DAD, SO I'M SURE HE'S BEEN THROUGH A LOT AS WELL

...

友人帳

Roll

Roll

SENSEI: I'M GOING TO WASH MY FACE -

Roll

Roll

Ha

Roll

Roll

Roll

Roll

COMING THIS WAY

Roll

Roll

! THAT POT IS

THUMP

BA

NG

DANG

DANG

FOUND YOU

NATSUME REIKO

WHA...

GIVE BACK THAT WHICH IS PRECIOUS TO ME

.. I'M NOT REIKO-SAN

BUT BY PRECIOUS TO YOU, DO YOU MEAN...

YOUR NAME?

IF YOUR NAME IS IN THE BOOK OF FRIENDS I'LL RETURN IT

I'LL GO AND GET IT, SO WAI...

YOU STOLE THAT WHICH IS MOST PRECIOUS TO ME

YOU THIEF, THIEF REIKO

GIVE HER BACK

GIVE HER BACK

!

...THIEF. EXACTLY WHAT DID..?

YOU STOLE MY FRIEND. HOW DARE YOU ACT INNOCENT

GIVE HER BACK. GIVE HER BACK

MU, WHAT'S WRONG NATSUME?

IF YOU WILL NOT

I WILL COME AND TAKE IT

I WILL TAKE THAT WHICH IS PRECIOUS TO YOU

YOU HAD BETTER RETURN HER... IF YOU DO NOT, I WILL TAKE A REPLACEMENT

ROLL

ROLL

TAKASHI-KUN— BREAKFAST—

RETURN HER WHEN NEXT I COME

WAIT !

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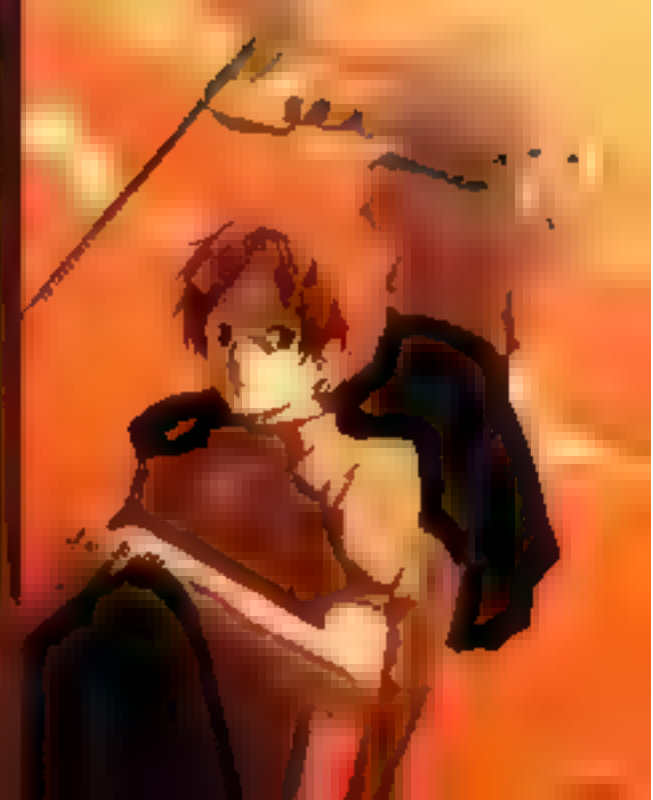

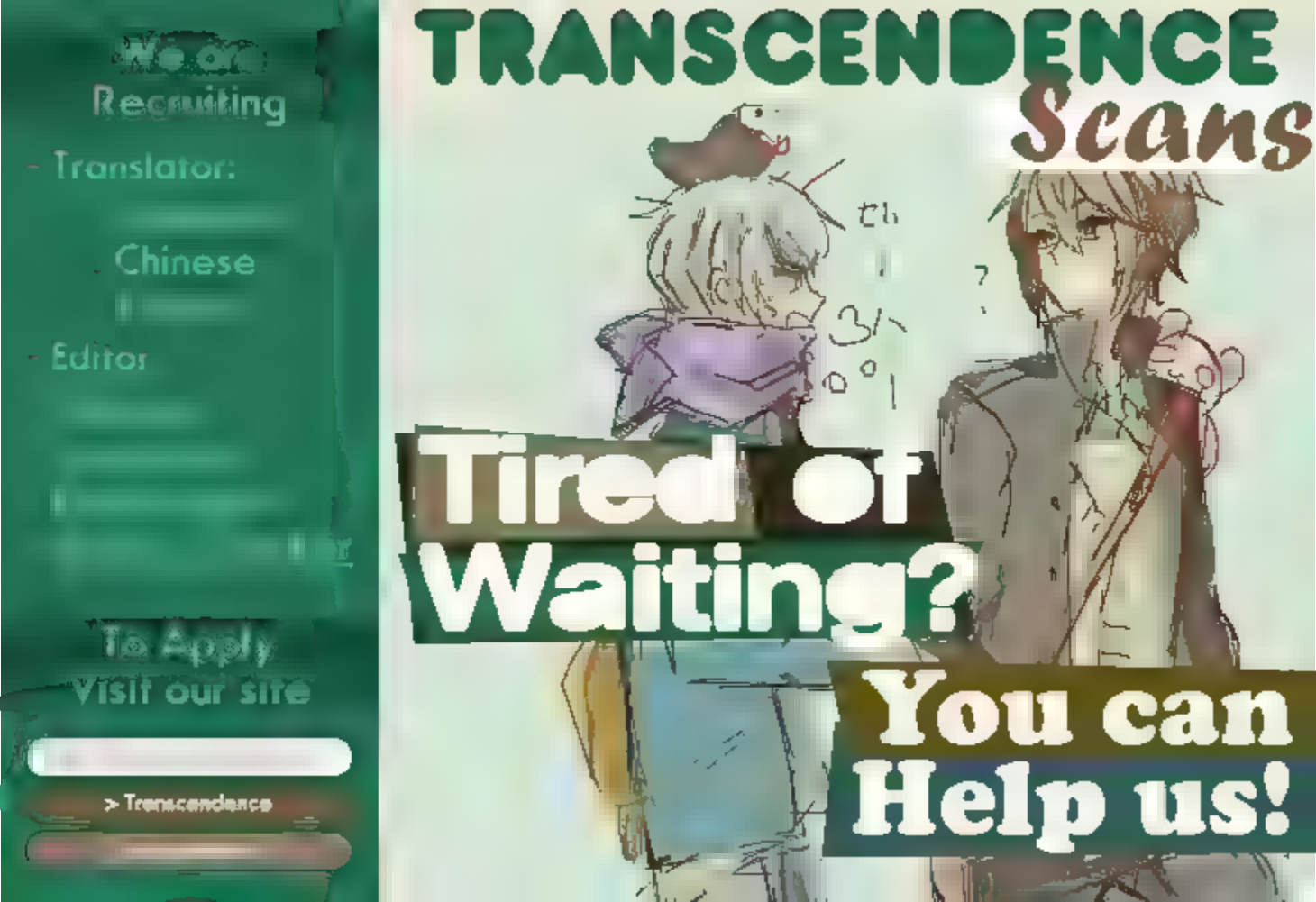
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第五十八話（だいごじゅうはちわ）

CRAP, WHERE DID THAT POT GO?!

DID I LOSE IT?!

"YOU - THIEF, THIEF "REIKO"

IF YOU DO NOT,

RETURN ME MY TREASURE

I WILL COME FOR YOURS.

HM? THIS IS... IN THE PROCESS OF CHASING THIS THING, WE'VE STUMBLED ONTO AN AYAKASHI PATH.

WHAT?

. .NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I'VE NEVER BEEN HERE BEFORE..

IT MIGHT LIVE SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE. SHALL WE HAVE A LOOK?

...WHERE DO POTS LIVE ANYWAY...?

WHO KNOWS? IN CRACKS? UP TREES? AT THE BOTTOMS OF LAKES?

IT'S PRETTY RUN DOWN. THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANY PEOPLE AROUND...

...THERE'S AN OLD SHACK HERE...

BUT SOMETHING MIGHT BE LIVING HERE.

..YEAH.

..EXCUSE ME, IS ANYBODY THERE?

I HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT THIS AREA...

SOMETHING MIGHT BE PUSHING ON THE DOOR FROM THE INSIDE.

NGH, IT WON'T OPEN.

ガ"ガ"ガ"

ガ"

ビ...

EXCUSE ME.

!!!

DO YOU WANT SOME-THING?

SORRY TO BOTHER YOU OUT OF THE BLUE.

I DON'T THINK SHE'S HUMAN, SO SHE'S AN AYAKASHI?

...UM, HAVE YOU SEEN A POT AROUND HERE?

IT'S.. JUST BIG ENOUGH FOR A PERSON TO FIT INSIDE, AND IT ROLLS AROUND ON ITS OWN.

AH! YOU ARE

NATSUME RE'KO!

...IKO

...REIKO... NATSUME REIKO...

どどどど……

YES. UM, I LOST SIGHT OF A POT AYAKASHI AROUND HERE, DO YOU KNOW OF ONE?

GRAND-SON?

...NO, I'M HER GRANDSON..

YOU KNOW REIKO-SAN?

..YES, IT WAS SAYING THAT REIKO-SAN STOLE SOMETHING FROM IT ..

...A POT?

NATSUME REIKO

...OH, YOU DON'T KNOW?

HAVE YOU HEARD OF ANYTHING LIKE THAT?

AT ANY RATE, I WANT TO FIND IT SO I CAN TALK TO IT.

I'M NOT REIKO, SO I DON'T KNOW THE DETAILS...

WHAT?

IT WAS A VERY BEAUTIFUL DOLL.

STOLE A DOLL FROM INSIDE THAT POT.

STOLE IT.. ARE YOU ABSOLUTELY SURE IT WAS REIKO-SAN?

SHE WAS LONELY. I'M SURE SHE WANTED IT

IF YOU'RE REIKO'S GRANDSON, WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A LOOK THROUGH THE THINGS SHE LEFT YOU?

IT'S PROBABLY AMONG THEM.

PSST

PSST

...WE SEEM TO HAVE ATTRACTED SOME WEAKLINGS.

IT'LL BE A PAIN IF MORE COME AND THEY START CAUSING A FUSS; LET'S GO BACK FOR NOW.

What sha we do?

What sha we do?

Hey, did she just say Reiko?

Is that Reiko...?

You're right, she looks tasty,

...OK.

APPARENTLY THAT'S REIKO.

IT'S NATSUME REIKO!

LET'S GET HER!

uh oh..

Sensei, do something!

WAAAH, YOU'RE WRONG!

TAKASHI-KUN!

WHERE ON EARTH HAVE YOU BEEN? YOU HAVEN'T EVEN EATEN BREAKFAST YET! HOW COULD YOU LEAVE WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING?!

ぴしゃっ

S-SORRY... UM... I.. SUDDENLY FELT LIKE GOING JOGGING..

WHAT?!

HONESTLY, IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN PLEASE TELL US BEFORE YOU GO!

YOU DIDN'T EVEN TAKE A JACKET..

...TAKASHI

..YES SIR.

I WON'T NAG YOU,

BUT YOU MUST TELL US WHEN YOU'RE GOING SOMEWHERE

Taaga Box

HMPH. SHE'S JUST SPOUTING NONSENSE. FORGET ABOUT IT

..WHAT SHOULD I DO? IF WHAT THAT FEMALE AYAKASHI SAID IS TRUE THEN IF I DON'T FIND THAT DOLL AND RETURN IT..

ピーート

11°9'!

...THAT'S RIGHT, MY TREASURE...

IF SHE CONSIDERS THAT TO BE SHIGERU-SAN AND TOUKO-SAN OR TANUMA AND THE OTHERS... OR THE BOOK OF FRIENDS...

ピルル

ピルル

I CAN'T

IT SAID THAT IF I DON'T RETURN ITS TREASURE IT'LL COME FOR MINE INSTEAD

SENSEI.

SO? DOES THIS DOLL BUSINESS RING ANY BELLS?

..HONESTLY, CONSIDERING YOU'RE NOT EVEN REIKO, THIS IS VERY TIRESOME.

ﾋｭｰ

EVEN IF IT WAS ONLY THIS, THEY KEPT ONE OF REIKO'S THINGS FOR ME INSTEAD OF THROWING IT OUT..

. BUT NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THAT SURE WAS LUCKY

..NO, NOT IN THE SLIGHTEST

THE ONLY THING SHE LEFT ME WAS THE BOOK OF FRIENDS..

HUH?

EVEN THE THICKEST HUMAN MIGHT INSTINCTIVELY SENSE THAT SOMETHING BAD WOULD HAPPEN IF THEY TRIED TO BURN IT.

THAT'S PROB-ABLY NOT WHY THEY KEPT IT.

SOME-THING WITH THAT MUCH AYAKASHI WRITING IN IT..

..OH.

..HONESTLY, WHAT A PAIN.

NUISANCES, YOU AND REIKO BOTH...

I'M GOING OUT...

..ANYWAY, LET'S TRY TO GET BACK ONTO THAT AYAKASHI ROAD AGAIN NOW.

IF WE STAY IN THE HOUSE, THAT POT MIGHT TARGET SHIGERU-SAN AND TOUKO-SAN. PLUS THERE MIGHT BE SOME AYAKASHI THERE THAT KNOW SOMETHING.

TANUMA ..?

NATSUME.

.. WELL, I WAS WORRIED ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY, SO I CAME TO SEE IF YOU WERE OK. . ARE YOU?

キョろろ

... WHAT'S WRONG?

TANUMA,

SORRY, BUT PLEASE GO HOME.

キョろろ

... ..

.. NATSU-ME?

キョろろ

...FOR THE TIME BEING, PLEASE STAY AWAY FROM ME AND MY HOUSE

IS IT AN AYAKASHI AGAIN?

.. YES

. .ONE THAT I CAN'T HELP YOU WITH.. ?

THANK YOU FOR YESTER-DAY...

..TANUMA.

.. YES.

. I SEE.

...WHEN THIS IS OVER, I'LL EXPLAIN IT ALL.

I'LL...

SORRY...

NATSU-ME..

H

04

※中級

描いているととても元気になれるキャラです。元気でお茶目で、若い人といるとついはしゃいでしまったり、ちょっとワルイにおいのする中年妖怪に描けていると嬉しいです。

※三篠

とても大事で役目のあるキャラだと思っています。いつもこんぶのように髪がゆれている変なイメージがあったので、アニメでしっとりかっこいい姿を見て、一番ギャップを感じ楽しめたキャラでした。そもそもなぜわかめのようにゆれてるイメージだったのか。沼底に沈んだもののイメージだったのかもしれません。

HEY.

TELL ME WHAT YOU HEARD TOO

REIKO? WHAT'S THAT?

THERE ARE SOME AYAKASHI SAYING THEY SAW NATSUME REIKO AROUND HERE

HEY HAVE YOU HEARD?

HM? I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU AROUND BEFORE ..

OH WELL, WHAT DOES IT MATTER?

I DON'T KNOW MUCH, JUST THAT A BEAUTIFUL, TASTY LOOKING HUMAN GIRL USED TO PASS THROUGH HERE FROM TIME TO TIME, AND IT SEEMS HER NAME WAS REIKO

...I SEE... WOULD SOMEONE AROUND HERE KNOW MORE?

LIKE... A DOLL, OR A POT ..

HM.. I DON'T KNOW

Have you heard anything like that?

A doll

Or a pot

HEY THERE LAD!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

こん

SHE'S NOT HERE?

I WANTED TO CONTINUE OUR CONVER-SATION ..

knock knock

EXCUSE ME, ARE YOU HOME?

ちまっ

HUH?

I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, BUT YOU OUGHT TO GET AWAY FROM THAT SHACK QUICK STICKS.

YOU SHOULDN'T APPROACH HER CARELESSLY.

..WHAT? BUT I WAS TALKING TO HER JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO..

THE AYAKASHI WHO LIVES IN THAT SHACK HAS A BAD TEMPER, AND SHE'S OUT OF CONTROL WHEN SHE'S ANGRY.

...

..THEN IT'S DANGEROUS FOR YOU TOO, ISN'T IT?

COME ON, LET'S GO.

...IS-IS THAT SO, THANK YOU

FOOL!

YOU'RE AWFULLY LUCKY THEN, SHE'S VERY TEMPERAMENTAL. GET AWAY FROM HERE IF YOU DON'T WANT TO GET BITTEN!

YOU SAVED ME. DO YOU KNOW A LOT ABOUT THIS AREA?

OF COURSE! ..NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU AROUND THESE PARTS BEFORE..

...HMPH, YOU HIDE IT WELL WITH THAT MASK OF YOURS, BUT...

だレ

だレ

だレ

だレ

.. SO, HAVE YOU HEARD OF REIKO THEN ..?

WHAT DID YOU SAY!? YOU LITTLE BALL OF RAGG!

YOU'RE JUST A PIGLET PRETENDING TO BE A CAT, AREN'T YOU?!

YOU CAN'T FOOL ME!

REIKO?

OH, YOU MEAN THAT THIEF?

.. BY THIEF, YOU MEAN...

KAYATSUBO WAS KICKING UP A FUSS.

SAYING NATSUME REIKO STOLE HER TREASURED DOLL.

DID REIKO REALLY STEAL IT ..?

..ARE YOU REALLY SURE IT WAS REIKO?

...

BUT NATSUME REIKO WAS JEALOUS, SO SHE STOLE IT.

SHE SAID THAT DOLL WAS HER PRECIOUS FRIEND.

T/N KAYA - NUTMEG TSUBO POT

I JUST HEARD KAYATSUBO SCREECHING ABOUT IT.

C-CALM DOWN, I TOLD YOU I DON'T KNOW THE DETAILS.

WHAT DID THIS DOLL LOOK LIKE?

...YES... WELL, I SUPPOSE...

IS KAYATSUBO .. A POT AYAKASHI JUST BIG ENOUGH FOR A PERSON TO FIT INSIDE?

...

WHAT'S GOING ON?

OH.. WELL APPARENTLY THIS FELLOW IS LOOKING FOR A DOLL.

A DOLL?

WHAT? WHAT'S ALL THIS FUSS ABOUT?

A DOLL, YOU SAY ..

OH, IF IT'S A DOLL YOU'RE AFTER,

THERE WAS ONE IN THE ASHIHARA FOREST THAT A HUMAN THREW AWAY A LONG TIME AGO

. HUH?

APPARENTLY IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG GIRL.

IT MIGHT STILL BE IN THE ASHIHARA FOREST.

WHERE'S THE ASHIHARA FOREST?!

HM? OH, WELL, IT'S THE FOREST TO THE WEST OF THIS AYAKASHI ROAD

.. THANK YOU, I'LL GO AND HAVE A LOOK

'RETURN

RETURN'

' RETURN ME MY TREASURE!'

'YOU STOLE MY FRIEND, HOW DARE YOU ACT INNOCENT!'

...DID REIKO-SAN REALLY...

STEAL SOMETHING FROM AN AYAKASHI AND THROW IT AWAY

NATSUME

'BUT NATSUME REIKO WAS JEALOUS, SO SHE STOLE IT.'

'THAT DOLL WAS HER PRECIOUS FRIEND,'

. SO THIS IS IT?

.. IT CERTAINLY IS A BEAUTIFUL DOLL.

BUT FOR REIKO-SAN TO WANT A DOLL..

THAT'S A LITTLE UNEXPECTED ..

...

...WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE I REALLY KNOW MUCH ABOUT HER EITHER, THOUGH.

..I'D BETTER RETURN IT ..

IF WHAT THAT POT AND THOSE AYAKASHI WERE SAYING IS TRUE ..

THEN I HAVE TO RETURN IT ..

H''

!

RHINO

NATSUME RHINO

HO

THAT SMELL

YEAH

WHAT'S WRONG, NATSU-ME?

HM?

OH, I WAS JUST THINKING I REALLY AM A LITTLE SCARED

I

EVEN IF I KNOW, I'M POWERLESS.

I CAN'T DO ANY-THING FOR HER.

EVEN THOUGH I WANT MY GRAND-MOTHER TO BE HAPPY,

NOW, NO MATTER WHAT I FIND OUT,

HEY, GRANDSON

はい

ぴょこ

AH. .

. .THE AYAKASHI FROM THE SHACK .

DID YOU FIND THE DOLL? THE DOLL THAT WAS STOLEN

'THE AYAKASHI WHO LIVES IN THAT SHACK HAS A BAD TEMPER, AND SHE'S OUT OF CONTROL WHEN SHE'S ANGRY.'

...YEAH...

SO I'M GOING TO GO AND LOOK FOR THE POT AYAKASHI NOW

..

NO, THAT'S NOT IT.

...HUH?

IT WASN'T THAT DIRTY.

IT WASN'T COVERED IN MUD.

ITS HAIR AND ITS KIMONO WERE MUCH MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN THAT.

YOU'RE..

HEY, DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO STAY AWAY FROM HER?!

WAH, YOU FOLLOWED ME?

SHE'S BAD NEWS, THAT KAYATSUBO.

SHE'S A TROUBLESOME AYAKASHI WHO PLAYS TRICKS ON HUMANS.

...WHAT..

ISN'T KAYATSUBO..

I SEE.

SO YOU DON'T HAVE ANY INTENTION OF RETURNING IT AFTER ALL

...TSK

SO SHE WAS A POT SPIRIT.

SPOUTING ALL THESE SELFISH THINGS.

SENSE!!

THIS IS BAD.

WAIT!

IF YOU WON'T RETURN IT THEN I HAVE NO CHOICE.

I WILL GO TO YOUR HOUSE AND TAKE IT

DON'T GET AHEAD OF YOURSELF! WAIT!

SHE'S GOING TO MY HOUSE...

!

SENSEI...

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...I'VE GOT TO-

DID TANUMA LEAVE MY HOUSE?

I'VE GOT TO GET HOME AND STOP HER!

...THIS ISN'T THE DOLL? THEN WHERE...?

I COULD...

TOUKO-SAN MIGHT BE AT HOME!

AH, IF ONLY I

はっ

THAT'S

REIKO

IT REALLY IS YOU, REIKO

NATSUME REIKO.

!!!

ざわ

I'M NOT REIKO!

LET LET ME GO!

ざわ

HO

!

AT A TIME LIKE THIS...

I'M...

ざわ

REIKO

ざわ

NATSU-ME

REIKO

Credits

Translator: Taiyou-chan

Proofreader: Taiyou-chan

Cleaner: Krissy

Typesetter: Krissy

QCer: Otaku-Mel

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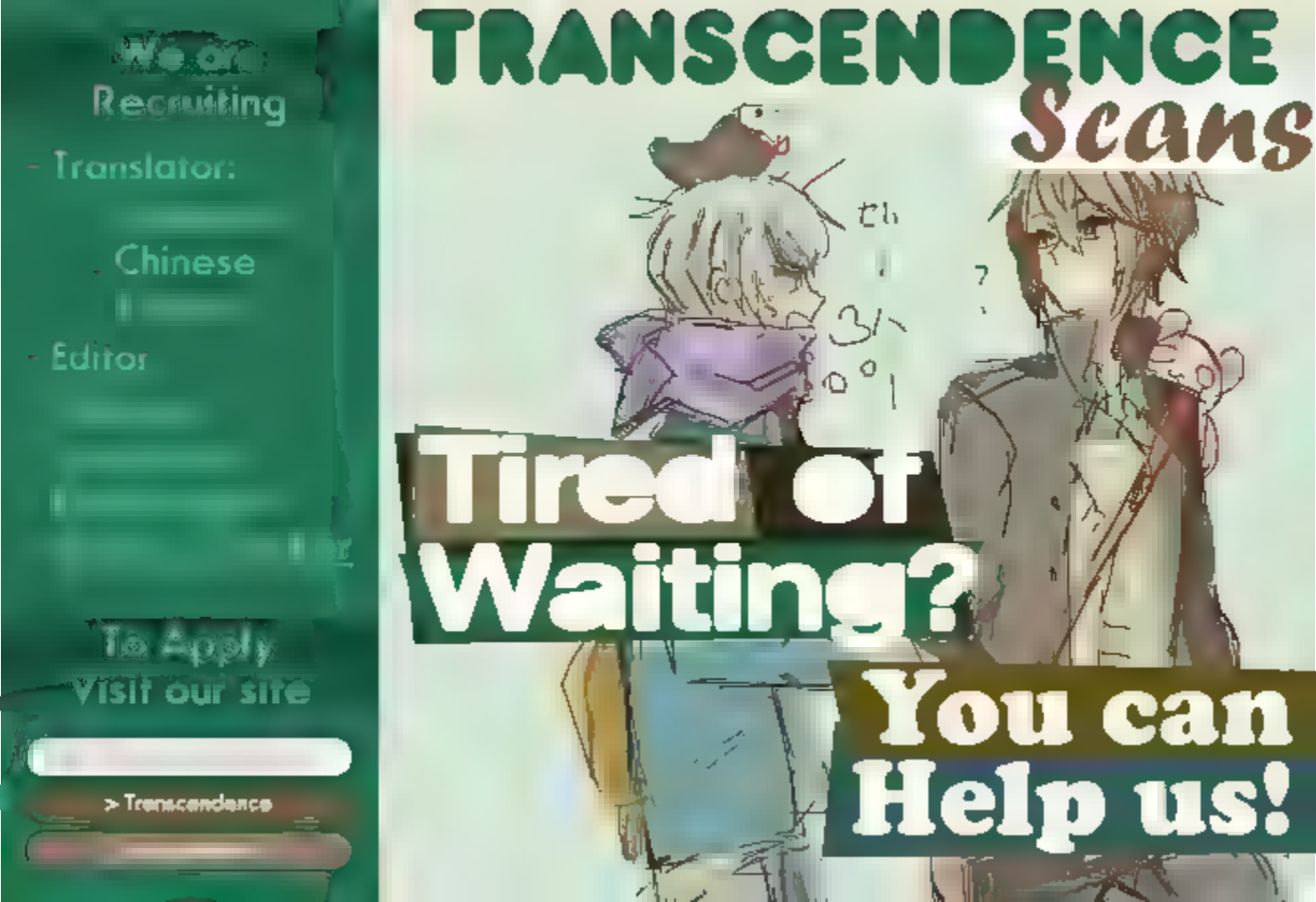
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夏目友人帳

なつめゆうじんちょう

第五十九話（だいごじゅうきゅうわ）

REIKO

NATSU-ME REIKO.

LET ME GO!

HII

...IF I DON'T GO AFTER KAYATSUBO QUICKLY...

I'M NOT REIKO-SAN . !

SHE MIGHT ATTACK SOME-ONE...

HI!

UGH!

REIKO...

REIKO...

Hi!

Hi!

LET ME GO...

I...

DON'T BE AWAY QUICK ... BE ALLOWED BY THEM!

HEY!

LET...

AH...

'HAVE YOU SEEN A GIRL AROUND HERE?'

...REIKO-SAN...?

'HEY, HAVE YOU SEEN A GIRL AROUND HERE?'

'A LITTLE HUMAN GIRL'

HEY, I'M TALKING TO YOU.

I THOUGHT I'D BE ABLE TO SEE WHERE SHE IS FROM UP HIGH, BUT IT'S HARD W TH AL. THE LEAVES UP HERE.

HEY, I'M LOOKING FOR SOME-ONE.

YOU'RE SO BIG BUT YOU DON'T EAT ANYTHING OTHER THAN ACORNS, DO YOU?

I'LL GIVE YOU SOMETHING TASTIER THAN ACORNS

IF WE FIND HER I'LL PAY YOU BACK

WILL YOU HELP ME OUT?

CAN I SIT ON YOUR SHOULDERS?

HAHA, MY APOLOGIES.

THERE IS NOTHING TASTIER THAN ACORNS!!!

HMPH..

...OH, YOU'RE JUST A VULGAR HUMAN, AREN'T YOU?

IF YOU HELP ME,

I'LL BRING SOMETHING CALLED MANJUU NEXT TIME, AND SHARE A LITTLE WITH YOU.

BUT,

THERE'S NO HARM IN TESTING THAT, IS THERE?

I LIKE BIRDS, BUT I DON'T LIKE HUMANS.

I SAW SOME BIRDS SITTING ON YOU.

YOU'RE NOT AFRAID OF ME, EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE A HUMAN?

..I SEE

WELL THEN, YOU MIGHT NOT GAIN ANYTHING FROM IT, BUT HOW ABOUT WE HAVE A MATCH?

IF I WIN, YOU HAVE TO HELP ME FIND THE GIRL.

OR ARE YOU AFRAID OF LOSING TO A HUMAN?

WHAT! YOU CHEEKY LITTLE.

ALL RIGHT THEN, A MATCH!

KYAA...

HA

AH?!

HEY, WAIT!

カ!!!

ガ

ガ

ガ

THERE SHE IS.

!

SHE'S A RICH KID FROM MY NEIGHBOUR-HOOD. . I KNEW IT, I THOUGHT I SAW HER WANDER ONTO THIS AYAKASHI PATH.

THANKS, FORGET ABOUT WHAT I SAID BEFORE.

WHAT?!

Oh

Mumm.

WAAAAH

I'M GOING TO LOOK FOR HER.

...HUH? BUT..

NO! I DROPPED MY FAVOURITE DOLLY, I ONLY JUST GOT HER.

...AH. WHO'RE YOU?

HEY, YOU CAN'T COME INTO THIS FOREST

COME ON, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE, FOLLOW ME.

...

DO THAT IF YOU WANT TO GET HOME

AS FOR YOUR DOLL... I'LL FIND HER FOR YOU, SO GO HOME AND WAIT THERE

..ALL RIGHT, BUT LISTEN UP OK? THIS IS IMPORTANT

GO STRAIGHT ALONG THAT PATH, AND DON'T LOOK BACK UNTIL YOU KNOW WHERE YOU ARE.

. HUH? OK...

THANK YOU.

THE FOREST IS UNUSUALLY LIVELY TODAY

WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING?

AH.

.. HEY, IS THAT DOLL YOURS?

YES, ISN'T IT PRETTY?

I WAS GOING TO PULL THAT GIRL INTO MY POT AND MAKE HER MY FRIEND,

BUT WHEN I TRIPPED HER OVER SHE DROPPED TH S CUTE DOLL, SO I TOOK IT INSTEAD

WOULD SHE REALLY HAVE DROPPED IT IF IT WAS SO IMPORTANT?

I WON'T. IT'S MINE NOW. IT'S MY FRIEND

THAT DOLL IS VERY IMPORTANT TO THAT GIRL

YOU CAN'T DO THAT, WHEN YOU FIND LOST PROPERTY YOU HAVE TO RETURN IT TO IT'S OWNER.

WILL YOU TRADE YOURSELF FOR THIS DOLL?

..

OR MAYBE.. YOU'RE VERY PRETTY...

WIL.. YOU JOIN ME IN MY POT?

AH?!

WH- WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!

LET ME GO ACORN MAN!!!

Hup

ﾋｭｰ

WHAT?

BUT WHEN THE SUN SETS, NO MATTER WHERE SHE IS, SHE GETS TIRED, CURLS UP, AND GOES TO SLEEP IN THAT POT.

.. HONESTLY. I'LL GIVE YOU SOME GOOD ADVICE. HER NAME IS KAYATSUBO, AND SHE'S QUITE FEROCIOUS.

FOOLISH HUMAN, SHE IS DANGEROUS. LET'S GET AWAY FROM HER FOR NOW

BUT...

REALLY?

THAT'S WHEN YOU SHOULD TAKE IT.

I SEE.

THEN I THINK I WILL BRING YOU SOME MANJUU NEXT TIME

BUT I DON'T HATE SMALL CREATURES.

...I HATE HUMANS

?

..HAHA. YOU'RE TELLING ME THIS EVEN THOUGH YOU HATE HUMANS?

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH HIM.

AND HE'S A GUY BUT HE ALWAYS NAGS ME, LIKE 'COME DOWN FROM THAT TREE IT'S DANGEROUS', AND 'DON'T WALK ABOUT OUTSIDE AT NIGHT'.

HE TALKS TO ME EVEN THOUGH HE'S A HUMAN.

I MET A STRANGE PERSON.

A LITTLE WHILE AGO,

..HE PROBABLY LIVES IN ANOTHER TOWN.

AND COMES HERE ON A WHIM EVERY NOW AND THEN

SOMETIMES HE BUYS ME MANJUU.

THEY'RE FROM TH S DELICIOUS STORE CALLED NANATSUJIYA.

...HMPH... THIS...

...ISN'T REIKO...?

..

..
REIKO-SAN...

REIKO-SAN

ごそ

ごそ

たっ

...WOW ... SHE REALLY IS ASLEEP.

AH, HEY WAIT..

WAAAH!

ALL RIGHT, I'M GOING TO GO RETURN IT TO THAT GIRL.

THANK YOU.

..

I GOT IT!

..AH

GOT IT!

HUH?

YOU LIVE AROUND HERE, DON'T YOU...?

ISN'T THAT MY DAUGHTER'S DOLL?

..EXCUSE ME..

COULD YOU GIVE IT TO HER FOR ME?

WHAT.. ? OH, SO.. SO THAT'S WHAT HAP-PENED..?

I FOUND IT I WAS JUST GOING TO TAKE IT TO HER NOW.

..

SHE CAME HOME IN TEARS SAYING THAT SHE'D LOST IT ..

...WHY DO YOU HAVE IT..?

. SO WE DON'T NEED THAT ONE ANYMORE.

SHE WAS CRYING SO MUCH THAT WE ALREADY GAVE HER A NEW ONE AND SHE REALLY SEEMS TO LOVE IT ..

..OH, BUT... YOU CAN KEEP IT.

..

GOODBYE THEN

IT'S FINE, YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING LIKE IT, DO YOU? . .IT'S FINE, KEEP IT

...BUT... I DON'T ..

WHAT ..?

Hm.

That girl might have stolen it from...

...Is it really ok ma'am?

Stop it. Don't you feel sorry for her? It's fine

HEEEY, POT-

POT LADY-

I DON'T NEED A DOLL.

IF I TAKE IT HOME THEY'LL JUST THINK I STOLE IT.

I'M SAYING I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU, SO COME ON OUT-

POT LADY-

ARE YOU THERE-?

HAHA..

YOU'RE MUCH BETTER OFF IN A PLACE WHERE SOMEONE WILL TREASURE YOU

SORRY, BUT I'LL LEAVE IT HERE FOR YOU

..YOU DON'T STAY STILL IN THE DAY TIME, DO YOU?

I HAVE TO GO HOME NOW, THOUGH.

...DON'T YOU THINK?

ALTHOUGH SHE WOULDN'T NORMALLY DO IT

SHE TRIED TO HELP SOMEONE, AND LOST OUT

BUT WHAT I SAW AT THE END OF THOSE MEMORIES,

WAS MY GRANDMOTHER, SMILING LIKE ALWAYS, AS THOUGH NOTHING HAD HAPPENED.

. YOU PEEKED AT MY MEMORIES, DIDN'T YOU?

YOU... ARE NOT REIKO.

.. YOUR NAME IS IN THE BOOK OF FRIENDS, ISN'T IT?

.. I'M HER GRANDSON, TAKASHI.

I NEED TO GET HOME FAST

KAYATSUBO IS ANGRY WITH MY GRANDMOTHER FOR STEALING HER DOLL. SO SHE SAID SHE WOULD TAKE A REPLACEMENT FROM ME.

BUT COULD YOU LET ME GO FOR NOW?

.. I'LL RETURN IT TO YOU.

05

※ヒノエ

ヒノエとレイコの出会いを描くことは出来たのですが、今度はまた別の形でレイコとの思い出を描いてみたいです。
横顔を描くのが、なぜかとても楽しいキャラです。

※レイコ

とても厄介なものを残してしまった人です。
「友人帳」がもたらす恩恵と災厄を、大事に描いていきたいです。

おわり

BUT ALL SHE DID WAS SMILE.

YOUR EXPRESSION CHANGES ALL THE TIME.

...WHAT A STRANGE HUMAN YOU ARE, YOU LOOK JUST LIKE REIKO.

...

AND YOUR HEART IS EASILY MOVED.

BUT IT MUST HAVE FALLEN AND ROLLED AWAY.. SHE PROBABLY COULDN'T BELIEVE THAT DIRTY THING WAS THE SAME DOLL.

I TOLD KAYATSUBO THAT REIKO LEFT IT ON A TREE BRANCH.

...THAT DOLL YOU FOUND BEFORE IS THE RIGHT ONE.

BUT THAT'S DEFINITELY IT.

IF YOU RETURN IT, SHE SHOULD CALM DOWN.

...OK.

THANK YOU.

...FOR MY GRAND-MOTHER TOO.

FOR HELPING HER, AND WATCHING OVER HER. .

.. I'M GOING NOW

I'LL DEFINITELY COME BACK AND RETURN YOUR NAME!

THANK YOU, TOO.

I HAVE MANY THINGS THAT I TREASURE.

SO MANY THAT I DON'T KNOW WHICH TO PROTECT FIRST.

SO MANY, THAT LATELY IT HAS MADE ME WEAKER...

どろん

WHAT WERE YOU DOING NATSUME?

I WAS ABOUT TO COME AND GRAB YOU BY THE SCRUFF OF YOUR NECK!

SENSE!!

I'M NOT OBLIGATED TO PROTECT THIS HOUSE ANYWAY.

レた？

.. THANK YOU.

WHERE'S KAYATSU-BO?!

.. I LOST SIGHT OF HER, SO I CAME BACK AHEAD TO KEEP WATCH, BUT SHE HASN'T SHOWED UP YET.

...I SEE.

SHE WON'T COME ONCE THE SUN SETS.

IF SHE COMES IT WILL BE IN THE EARLY MORNING, AFTER SUNRISE

. HMPH, THEN WE'LL BE IN FRONT OF THE HOUSE EARLY MORNING TO MEET HER?

.. YEAH.. BUT THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO TRY IN THE MEANTIME.

I WONDER IF IT'S CLEAN-ABLE ..

REIKO-SAN WANTED KAYATSUBO TO HAVE THIS DOLL ..

N...

NOPE

HEY, IT'S NOT COMING OFF AT ALL...

WHAT ON EARTH HAP-PENED TO IT, ?

IT'S RATHER BEDRAG-GLED ..

IT BELONGS TO A FRIEND OF MINE, AND I'D LIKE TO CLEAN IT BUT I'M NOT SURE HOW...

OH?

...EXCUSE ME, TOUKO-SAN?

I HAVE THIS DOLL ..

WITH THE HELP OF TOUKO-SAN AND SENSEI

GO AND GET A WASHBOWL IF YOU BRUSH HER HAIR OUT VERY CARE-FULLY..

OH? WELL.. MAYBE I CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE CLOTHES...

I WANT TO GIVE IT TO HER TOMORROW MORNING...

I MANAGED TO GET THE DIRT AND GRASS OFF.

IT WAS STILL NOWHERE NEAR WHAT YOU COULD CALL BRAND-NEW,

BUT TOUKO-SAN DRAPED A LIGHT PINK CLOTH AROUND IT LIKE A SHAWL.

Good-night

Hope your friend will be happy

もぞっ

Roll...

ぎゃっ!!

...
WOW. HOW PRETTY

THANK GOODNESS, SO THIS IS WHERE YOU WERE.

STAY WITH ME, OK?

I'LL TREASURE YOU, SO COME HOME WITH ME.

HAHA.

'.. HAHA.'

ROI!

ROI!

HAHA, THANK GOODNESS.

...ARE YOU OKAY? IT LOOKED LIKE SOME HUMANS WERE SUSPECTING YOU OF SOMETHING...'

'HERE'S THE MANJUU, JUST LIKE I PROMISED.'

IN THE MEMORIES OF THE AYAKASHI,

REIKO-SAN IS ALWAYS IN THAT ILL-FITTING, UNCHANGING FORM.

'YOU'RE MUCH BETTER OFF IN A PLACE WHERE SOMEONE WILL TREASURE YOU.'

BUT I'VE LEARNED MY LESSON. I SHOULDN'T START GETTING INVOLVED IN OTHER PEOPLE'S BUSINESS ALL OF A SUDDEN.

IM FINE

HMPH. I'VE NO NAME TO GIVE A HUMAN!

HM?

SEE YOU LATER ACO..

..UM... WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

THEN HOW ABOUT WE HAVE A MATCH?

..OH, IS THAT SO?

..

'I WANT TO KNOW YOUR NAME.'

IF I KEEP RETURNING NAMES...

MAYBE I WILL SEE IT SOMEDAY

AND WHAT SHE LOOKS LIKE WHEN SHE LOSES IT.

WHAT SHE LOOKS LIKE WHEN SHE'S FOUND SOMETHING THAT'S IMPORTANT TO HER...

NOT LIKE REIKO-SAN ANYMORE.

...NO I'M

...AND MAYBE SOMEDAY I'LL ALSO...

THE THINGS THAT ARE IMPORTANT TO ME

I'LL FIND IT

A WAY OF PROTECTING.

ARE YOU GOING OUT, TAKASHI-KUN?

DO YOU?

WELL LUCKILY YOU LOOK MUCH BETTER TODAY, BE CAREFUL NOT TO CATCH A COLD ALL RIGHT?

YES, I'M GOING TO VISIT TANUMA.

AND I HAVE SOMETHING ELSE I PROMISED I'D DO.

I WILL, SEE YOU LATER.

ヤレヤレ

..HM? HEY NATSUME, YOU'RE GOING THE WRONG WAY.

HUH? OH.

I WAS THINKING OF BUYING SOME MANJUU FROM NANATSUJIYA.

HAHA... YEAH.

ギーゥ

I love them!

Yes! Buy a ton!

...ME TOO.

Credits

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Typesetter: Krissy

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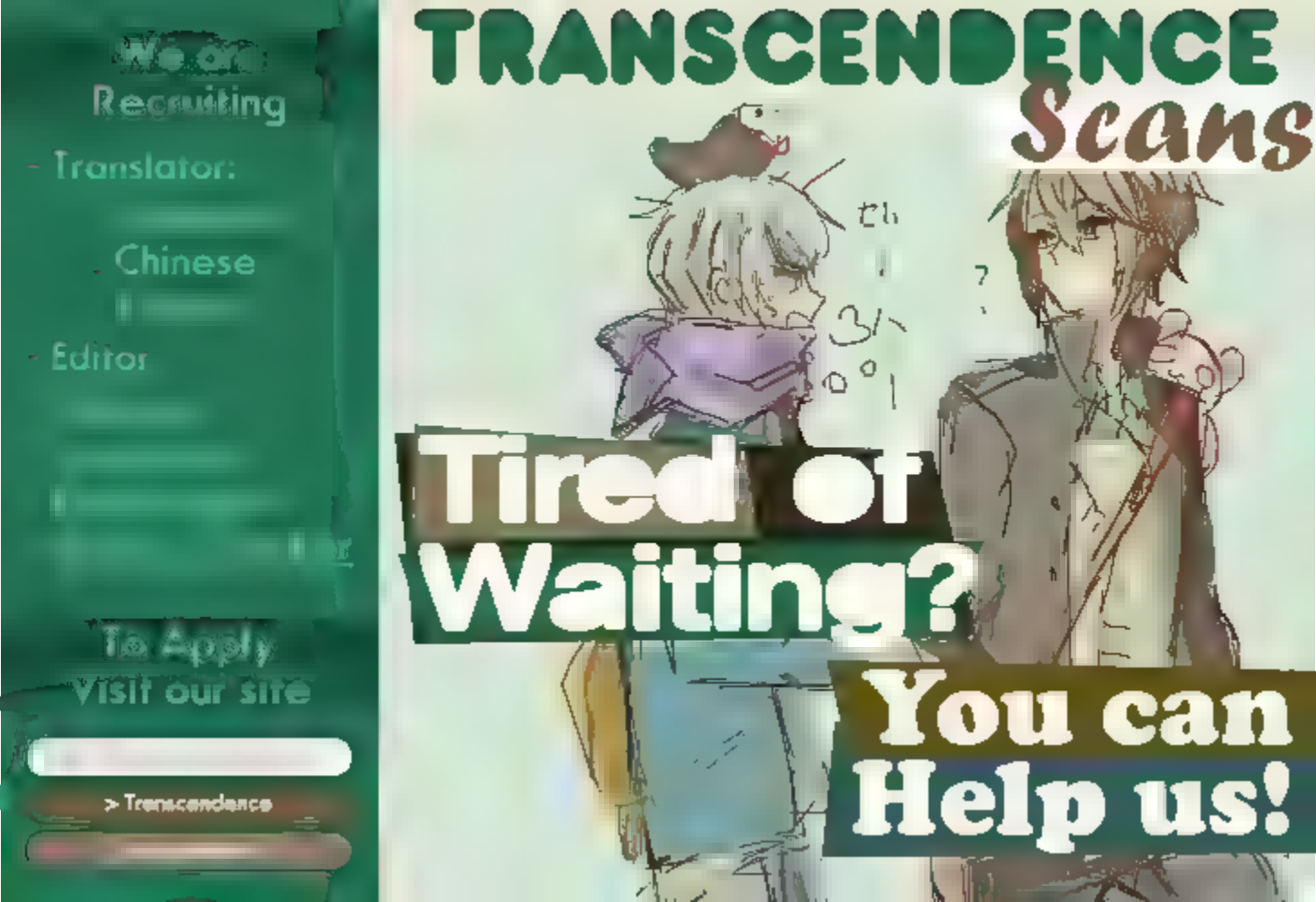
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夏目友人帳

なつめゆうじんちょう

Special 12 Natsume's Book of Observations 6

NATSUME-SAMA.

HAVE YOU SEEN THE WHITE MIST FLOWERS ON MITSUBA HILL?

NO.

PLEASE TAKE A LOOK BELOW, NATSUME-SAMA.

SO COLD!

IF YOU, AT LEAST, WOULD HAVE LET ME BRING A COAT

Whoooosh

Woohoo!

Woohoo!

OH, I SUSPECTED SO! THEY ARE SHORT-LIVED, BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS

WE CAME HERE TO GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO GO SEE THEM SINCE YOU'VE NEVER DONE SO BEFORE!

ACK! LET ME GO! SENSEI!

WOW

WHAT DO YOU THINK? BEAUTIFUL, RIGHT?

YEAH.

HMM?

NEVER MIND

OH!

THANKS SO MUCH. I NEVER KNEW THERE WAS A PLACE LIKE THIS

WELL! LET'S HAVE A DRINK AND WATCH THE FLOWERS, NATSUME-SAMA!

I'VE TOLD YOU A MILLION TIMES, I DON'T DRINK ALCOHOL!

GEEZ, YOU'RE SO SELFISH!

WHAT?!

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT

SPEAKING OF WHICH, WE HAVEN'T SEEN HIM AT ALL IN THE PAST TWO DAYS.

Ohhh!!!

SO THAT WAS BASICALLY HOW THINGS WENT WITH NATSUME-SAMA.

HIS EYES WERE SHINING WITH PLEASURE!

?!

HOW PITIFUL! TOO PITIFUL, NATSUME-SAMA!

HE MUST BE WEAKER THAN THE TANUKI AND BOARS. HOW SAD!

WHAT HAPPENED?!

THE TANUKI AND BOARS WE'VE TAKEN THERE HAVE NEVER GOTTEN SICK BEFORE!

OOSHINO-SAMA! OOSHINO-SAMA!

WE CAME TO ASK IF YOU PERCHANCE HAD SOME FEVER-REDUCING MEDICINAL HERBS, AND IF YOU DO, IF YOU WOULD BE SO KIND AS TO LET US HAVE SOME?

I'VE GOT IT! LET'S GO SEE OOSHINO-SAMA AT YONMINE

GREAT IDEA!

OH, REALLY?!

HOWEVER, YOU CAME JUST IN TIME IF YOU PUT THE LANTERN BACK TOGETHER FOR ME, I'LL SHARE MY MEDICINE WITH YOU

SLITHER

Ta—— da

MY STONE LANTERN GOT KNOCKED DOWN IN THE HEAVY RAIN THE OTHER DAY

WHAT? I'M SORRY BUT I'M IN A POOR MOOD RIGHT NOW

THUNK

Gasp

Gasp

THUNK

GROWL

ROAR!

GRRRR.

ETC!

GO HOME.

NO WAY.

...

HMM?

I WAS TOLD THIS MEDICINE WILL HELP WITH YOUR FEVER PLEASE TAKE IT

AH. THANKS

GO ON!

I HOPE HE GETS BETTER SOON.

I AGREE.

YOU CAN'T GIVE UP ON SOMEONE WHO IS AS GOOD TO PLAY WITH AS HIM.

SO TRUE.

YOU CAN'T HELP BUT CARE FOR A KID LIKE THAT.

VERY TRUE.

REALLY?!

YOU KNOW THAT MEDICINE DOESN'T WORK ON HUMANS, RIGHT?

...

WHAT? THOSE TWO MADE NATSUME TAKE THAT MEDICINE?

SLUMP

IT WAS...

ALL FOR NOTHING...

IT NEVER AMOUNTS TO ANY GOOD.

SO TRUE.

CRAP! THE THINGS WE DO FOR A HUMAN! NEVER AGAIN!

.....

...

...

THE DAY AFTER.

THE NEXT DAY.

I WONDER IF NATSUME-SAMA IS STILL IN BED.

IT'S REALLY TOO BAD. PERHAPS WE COULD BRING HIM SOME WHITE MIST FLOWERS TODAY.

Hey!

THERE YOU ARE, MIDDLE-CLASSERS!

DID YOU HEAR? MY FEVER FINALLY WENT AWAY.

IT SEEMS LIKE THE MEDICINE YOU GAVE ME REALLY HELPED, SO THANKS!

NO.

WE'RE THE IDIOTS.

Flutter

Flutter

Flutter

STUPID IDIOT...

SEE YOU LATER!

EVEN THOUGH WE KNOW THEY'LL BE GONE SOON

WE JUST

CAN'T KEEP OUR EYES OFF OF THEM.

Credits

Translator: Kuri

Proofreader: Soraiiya

Cleaner: Krissy

Typesetter: Krissy

QCer: Vauxhall

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